In this issue...

Jewish Film Festival Coming in May

Page 4

JFS Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Page 7

Ann Arbor Teens in Nahalal

Page 15

Washtenaw Jewish News
c/o Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor
2939 Birch Hollow Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage PAID
Ann Arbor, MI
Permit No. 85

WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

April 2013 Nissan/Iyar 5773 Volume XXXVII: Number 7 FREE

Celebrate Israel 65th Birthday Concert with Noa and Jewish Federation

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor will present the Celebrate Israel 65th Birthday Concert with Noa, Wednesday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Michigan Theater.

The concert, Noa, The Israeli Songbook will feature musical director and guitarist Gil Dor, percussionist Gadi Seri, and the Yoed Nir String Quartet. University of Michigan Hillel's acclaimed a capella group, Kol Ha'Kavod, will open the show.

"For Israel's 65th birthday, we wanted to do something special," said Federation executive director David Shtulman. "It's exciting to be able to offer a program that is out of the ordinary to celebrate this significant milestone."

While Celebrate Israel honors Israel's birthday, members of the Ann Arbor community who share Israel's birth year will also be recognized. Ron and Lonnie Sussman were both born in 1948, less than two months after the State of Israel was declared. Lonnie remembers "feeling connected and proud that we were the same age. In my family, trees were planted in honor of all life events including birthdays, and somehow that also strengthened the connection." Elliot Eisenberg recalls that when he was 13 years old, the Chicago Federation held an Israel Independence Day event honoring the bar mitzvah year of Israel and boys, like him, who were celebrating the same milestone. "We all received a plaque," recounts Eisenberg. "I kept it with me throughout my adulthood, and it reminded me of this special connection to Israel."

Noa will be performing in Ann Arbor on April 17

Known in Israel by her given name Achinoam Nini, Noa is a leading international concert and recording artist. Born in Tel-Aviv in 1969 to a family originally from Yemen, she lived in New York City from age two until she returned to Israel at the age of 17. After serving in the Israeli Army in a military entertainment unit, Noa studied music at the Rimon School where she met her long-time partner and collaborator Gil Dor. Noa's strongest influences come from the singer-songwriters of the 1960s, like Paul Simon, Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen. These musical and lyrical sensibilities, combined with Noa's Yemenite roots and Dor's strong background in jazz, classical and rock genres, have created a unique sound and a powerful musical partnership.

Noa has performed at Carnegie Hall and has recorded songs in English, Hebrew, Arabic, and other languages. She and Dor collaborate frequently with Arab and Palestinian artists from around the world, including Khaled from Algeria, Nabil Salameh from Lebanon, Handallah from Nablus, Rim Banna from Nazareth, Amal Murkus from Kfar Yasif, and Mira Awad from Kfar Raameh with whom Noa represented Israel in the 2009 Eurovision song contest. These collaborations enable the duo to express, musically, their belief in the power of communication and dialogue as a means of promoting peace and understanding.

In 2012, Noa performed to a sold out crowd at the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit's Berman Center for Performing Arts. Detroit JCC Executive Director Mark Lit said, "Noa is simply one of the best singers in the world. In Israel she is considered a legend, in Europe a superstar, in America one of Israel's most beloved singers. She sings pop, folk, Broadway, and opera with equal grace and style. Her long time

Continued on page 19

Pollster Jim Gerstein to speak at EMU

Martin B. Shichtman, special to the WJN

Eastern Michigan University Jewish Studies, in collaboration with the department of political science, will present pollster Jim Gerstein on Wednesday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU Student Center Auditorium. Gerstein's address is titled "Making Sense of the 2012 Jewish Vote." Gerstein is widely acknowledged as America's leading authority on Jewish voting patterns. He is founding partner of Gerstein Bocian Agne a Washington-based firm providing strategic planning, communications, project management, and research services to non-profit organizations, advocacy leaders, corporations, labor unions, and political candidates. Previously, Gerstein was executive director of the progressive research and strategy organization, Democracy Corps.

Jim Gerstein

Continued on page 2

Yom HaShoah Commemoration

Miriam Brysk, special to the WJN

On April 8, the Holocaust Survivors of Ann Arbor will present the second community-wide Yom HaShoah memorial service to continue the tradition of remembering the massacre of six million European Jews during the Holocaust. The speaker will be Scott Spector, professor of history, German and Judaic studies, and chair of Germanic languages and literature at the University of Michigan. The program will also include brief recollections by survivors of a specific personal moment in their lives that they will always remember. The Gemini group of Ann Arbor will perform Holocaust memorial music. Holocaust art by Miriam Brysk will also be displayed.

The event will take place from 5–6:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. Everyone in the community is invited to attend. ■

Paper Station
Announcements
Holiday Cards
Stationery
Invitations
Hebrew
Kippot
Large selection Excellent quality
Great Service
For an appointment contact:
Ilana Gafni
734.662.5075
paper.station@yahoo.com
www.paperstationinvitations.com

L • G • A

specializing in residential and commercial design for remodeling, additions and new construction
LEWIS GREENSPOON ARCHITECTS
734.786.3757
www.lg-architects.com

Test Drive Your Retirement
Call for a Comprehensive Review
FORTY–SEVEN YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
LONG–TERM CARE
We Change People's Lives by Aligning Action with Intention.... Insurance... Investments.... Ideas Compelling Conversations

Carol Hoffer
CLU, CASL
2211 Old Earhart Rd, #165
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 663-8374
(734) 663-1728 fax
carol.hoffer@nmfn.com

Amadeus
CAFE • PATISSERIE
Elegant Central European Dining
Pastries • Tortes • Soups • Salads
Traditional Foods & Vegetarian Selections
Come celebrate Spring with us!
Candlelight Dinners with Live Classical Music
www.amadeusrestaurant.com
122 East Washington Street
(734) 665-8767
Mon. Closed • Tue., Wed. & Thur. - Lunch 11:30-2:30; Dinner 5-10
Fri.- Lunch 11:30-2:30; Dinner 5-11 • Sat. - Lunch 11:30-3; Dinner 3-11
Special Sunday Brunch - 11:00- 3

Simon Wiesenthal topic for next JCC talk on heros

Karen Freedland, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and the Jewish Cultural Society will co-sponsor a presentation led by Larry Kuperman, entitled "Jewish Heroes and Heroines," on Sunday, April 7, at 10 a.m., at the JCC. This is the second in a series of talks that Kuperman has led on famous Jewish heroes. The subject of this class will be Simon Wiesenthal, Holocaust survivor, Humanitarian and Nazi hunter. Admission is free and all are welcome to attend.

Born in 1908 in Austria, Wiesenthal was sent to a series of concentration camps, including Janowska, Plaszow, and Mauthausen. Although he had been starved to a weight of only 99 pounds at the time of his liberation, Wiesenthal would survive and begin working for the U.S. Army, gathering documentation for Nazi war crime trials. He is credited with the capture of Karl Silberbauer, the Nazi responsible for the arrest of Anne Frank and the capture of Franz Stangl, the one-time commandant of the Treblinka and Sobibor death camps. Wiesenthal also founded the Jewish Documentation Centre, which collects documentation about war crimes and criminals.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Karen Freedland at 971 0990 or karenfreedland@jccfed.org.

All are welcome to Jewish Hikers event

Eli Avny, special to the WJN

The Spring-Welcome Hike, organized by the Jewish Hikers of Michigan (JHOM), will take place on April 14, at 1 p.m., at Lilley Park in Pittsfield Township, about 10 minutes from downtown Ann Arbor.

Hikes are designed to cultivate the love of nature, spirituality, social interaction and physical activities. They are targeted for anybody who loves nature, and who likes to meet new people.

Participants should bring backpacks, munchies, and water. The hike will last approximately 1-1/2 to 2 hours. The hike is not physically demanding, and is very scenic.

For further information, contact Eli Avny at 883-9522, Rabbi Lisa Delson from TBE at 665-4744, or email to jewish.hikers@gmail.com.

JFS Caregiver Conversations to meet April 18

Cindy Klein, special to the WJN

The next meeting of Jewish Family Services Caregiver Conversations group will be Thursday, April 18, at 6:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. If you are an adult caregiver of a loved one, or managing support of a family member from a distance, this free, monthly support group is for you. Learn coping skills and strategies, listen to each other and receive peer support. The group meets the third Thursday of the month (except holidays) at the JCC from 6:30–8 p.m. JFS' Geriatric Services Coordinator Diane Fenske, LMSW, facilitates. For additional information, contact Fenske at 769-0209 or diane@jfsannarbor.org.

A²SO Chamber Series returns to the JCC

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra will return to the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor with their Chamber Series to perform a Beethoven's and Braham's concert on Wednesday, April 24. A dessert reception will begin at 1 p.m. and the concert will begin at 1:30 p.m. This performance will feature Yehonatan Berick on the violin, Arie Lipsky on cello and Pauline Martin at the piano. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased at the door or through the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. For more information, contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

Jim Gerstein to speak at EMU, continued from page 1

From 1997–2001 Gerstein was executive director of the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation, and, during the 1999 Israeli Prime Ministerial campaign, he served on Ehud Barak's American consulting team, in charge of polling, paid media, and message development. Gerstein is founder of the Institute for Peace and Security, which provides financial, organizational, and strategic support for various Arab-Israeli projects, including meetings between retired generals from Israel and Arab countries, peace initiatives with Israeli business leaders, and dialogues between Jewish and Arab municipal leaders. Admission is free. For more information, contact jewish.studies@emich.edu. ■

WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

2935 Birch Hollow Drive
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108
voice: 734/971-1800
fax: 734/677-0109
e-mail: WJN.editor@gmail.com
www.washtenawjewishnews.org

Editor and Publisher
Susan Kravitz Ayer

Calendar Editor
Claire Sandler

Advertising Manager
Gordon White

Design and Layout
Dennis Platte

Staff Writers
Mary Bilyeu, Sandor Slomovits, Rochel Urist

Contributing Writers
Aura Ahuvia, Halye Aisner, Miriam Alexander, Eli Avny, Miriam Brysk, Rabbi Lisa Delson, Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, Hadar Dohn, Emily Eisbruch, Julie Ellis, Eileen Freed, Karen Freedland, Ruth Ann Jones, Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, Miriam Hamermesh, Peretz Hirshbein, Cindy Klein, Chavie Lieber, Alice Mishkin, Soo Ji Minn, Sara Norich, Jennifer Rosenberg, Ben Sales, Mae Sander, Penny Schwartz, Gil Shefler, Martin B. Shichtman, Abigail Simon, Mendel Sirota, Elliot Sorkin, Mimi Weisberg, Yasaf Warshai

The Washtenaw Jewish News is a free and independent newspaper. It is published monthly, with the exception of January and July. It is registered as a Non-profit Michigan Corporation. Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of its editors or staff

Member of
American Jewish Press Association

©2013 by the *Washtenaw Jewish News*. All rights reserved. No portion of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* may be reproduced without permission of the publisher.

Signed letters to the editor are welcome; they should not exceed 400 words. Letters can be emailed to the editor at WJN.editor@gmail.com. Name will be withheld at the discretion of the editor.

Circulation: 5,000
Subscriptions:
$12 bulk rate inside Washtenaw County
$18 first-class subscription

The deadline for the May 2013 issue of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* is Monday, April 8.
Publication date: Wednesday, April 26.
Extra copies of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.

In this issue...

Advertisers 31
Best Reads 23
Calendar 26
Congregations 10
Israel 19
Kosher Cuisine 25
On Another Note 24
Seniors 8
Rabbis' Corner 9
Teens 14
Youth 16
Vitals 31

MSU to hold symposium on Modern Hebrew and Israeli literature

Ruth Ann Jones, special to the WJN

The Michigan State University Jewish Studies Program and the MSU Libraries will co-sponsor a symposium on Modern Hebrew and Israeli Literature on April 9–10. The symposium will be free and open to the public, and will feature an international roster of speakers.

The symposium is being held in honor of the Irwin T. and Shirley Holtzman Israeli Literature Collection and Archive, which is held in the Special Collections Division at the MSU Libraries. The symposium was made possible by a special gift from Ritta Rosenberg.

The keynote speakers for the symposium are Meir Shalev and Robert Alter. Meir Shalev is one of Israel's most celebrated novelists and also a columnist with the Israeli daily

Meir Shalev

Robert Alter

Yediot Ahronot; his books include A Pigeon and a Boy, The Loves of Judith (Four Meals), Fontanelle, Alone In the Desert, But A Few Days, and Esau.

Robert Alter is a literary scholar, translator, and professor emeritus of Hebrew and comparative literature at UC Berkeley. His books include Canon and Creativity: Modern Writing and the Authority of Scripture, The David Story: A Translation with Commentary of 1 and 2 Samuel, The Five Books of Moses: A Translation with Commentary, and The Book of Psalms: A Translation with Commentary.

Three presentations by panels of noted scholars will also take place: "On Meir Shalev's Oeuvre," "The Revival of Hebrew as a National Language," and "War and Morality in Israeli Culture and Society."

The keynote presentations will take place at the MSU Main Library on Tuesday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. (Shalev) and Wednesday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m. (Alter). The scholarly discussion panels will take place at Wells Hall during the day on Wednesday. All refreshments and meals served at the Symposium will be prepared and served under kosher supervision.

"We're excited to host the biggest event we've done in honor of the Irwin T. and Shirley Holtzman Israeli Literature collection," commented Kenneth Waltzer, director of the MSU Jewish Studies Program and a faculty member in James Madison College.

The Irwin T. and Shirley Holtzman Israeli Literature Collection and Archive represents many years of passionate collecting by Irwin Holtzman, a Detroit-area builder and business owner who died in 2010. Many of the volumes of fiction, poetry, and drama he collected are inscribed by the author, and the collection also includes a wealth of primary resources, such manuscripts of poetry and drama, posters advertising literary events, political cartoons and correspondence.

"The MSU Libraries are pleased to partner with the Jewish Studies Program on the upcoming Symposium," said Cliff Haka, director of the MSU Libraries. "We hope it will draw broad attention, both from the scholarly community and the public, to the extremely rich resources available in the Holtzman collection." ■

For the complete schedule and list of speakers, parking information, and other details, visit lib.msu.edu/symposium.jsp.

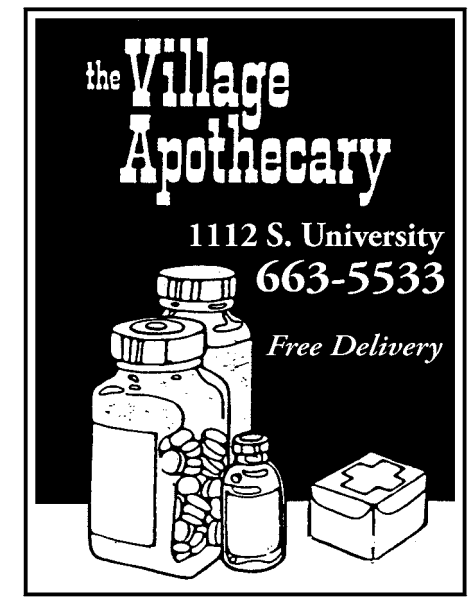
Serving whom? JCLP 2013 Communal Conversation, part 2

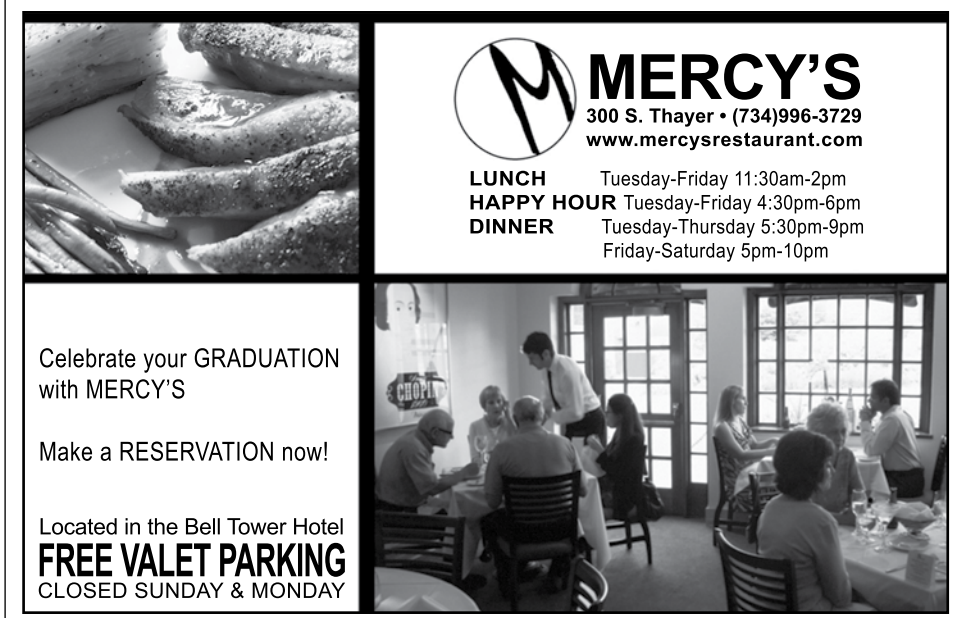
Alice Mishkin, special to WJN

The University of Michigan School of Social Work and Jewish Communal Leadership Program will be present the second of its 2013 Communal Conversations on April 11. Entitled "Serving Whom? How Jewish Organizations Navigate Whiteness, Privilege, and Service," the conversation will focus on the American Jewish community's changing position in the United States from a marginalized group that has not always been considered white, to its current position as a group with resources expansive enough to aid other minority and recent immigrant groups.

The program will open with historical and cultural framing of Jewish experiences in the context of social service and activism by Frankel Institute fellow Jennifer Glaser. An interactive panel will follow, featuring representatives from local and national Jewish communal organizations speaking about their work in serving communities and individuals inside and outside of the Jewish community. Panelists will include Deborah Dash Moore, director of the U-M Judaic Studies program; Marilyn Sneiderman, executive director of Avodah: The Jewish Service Corps; Perry Ohren, CEO of Jewish Family Services of Metropolitan Detroit; Allan Gale, associate director of JCRC of Metropolitan Detroit; and Mira Sussman, Resettlement Services Coordinator for Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County. Panel members and audience members will join in a discussion of the ways in which class, race and privilege influence the missions of Jewish communal organizations today.

The event will take place on April 11, from 5:30–8:30 p.m., in the East Conference Center at the Rackham Graduate School of the University of Michigan (915 East Washington Street). Kosher refreshments will be served. For more information and to RSVP, visit http://ssw.umich.edu/events/jclp-serving-whom.. ■





The 12th annual Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival will return to Ann Arbor May 5-9. The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, in association with the Jewish Community Center of Metro Detroit and the Michigan Theater, will showcase 15 films over five days at the Michigan Theater. Of the 15 films, 11 of the films are foreign, including six from Israel.

The festival will open at 2 p.m. with a double-feature, beginning with the Israeli Academy Award Winner of best documentary, *Life in Stills*, which tells the story of "The Photo House" and the relationship between the 96 year old gallery owner and her grandson. The film is followed by the highly visual and emotional film, *Numbered*, an award winning story of Auschwitz survivors and the relationship they have with that tattooed number on their arms.

The opening night sponsor reception, catered Zingerman's Catering and Events, will begin at 6:30 p.m. At 8 p.m., following the reception, the film *Hava Nagila* will be shown.

This year's event will feature several guest speakers. On Monday, May 6, Frances Trix, professor of linguistics and anthropology at Indiana University, Woodrow Wilson Fellow 2012–2013 and winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Albanians American National Organization, will discuss the history of the film *Besa: The Promise*, showing at 2 p.m. On Tuesday, May 7, Larry Kuperman, cultural Jewish educator and lecturer on Jews in Rock & Roll, will answer questions associated with the film, *A.K.A.* Doc Pomus, showing at 2 p.m. On Wednesday, May 8, Jennifer Perlove Siegel, lecturer in art history and urban and regional studies at the University of Michigan, Dearborn, will lead a discussion on the 2 p.m. showing of Mendelsohn's *Incessant Vision*.

This year's Afterglow Party honoring sponsors of the Festival will take place on Thursday, May 9 at 9:45 p.m., at Sava restaurant, following the final film of the festival, *The Ballad of the Weeping Spring*.

The Jewish Film Festival is made possible thanks to Michael and Patricia Levine; Rita and Charles Gelman; the Michigan Theater; and the many generous sponsors of the event. Additionally, the Ann and Jules Doneson Film Festival Endowment Fund, established by Shira and Steve Klein, continues to help insure the festival's longevity. This year's festival chairs are Pat Soskolne and Lisa Weiss, who dedicated a great deal of time and effort to help this event come to fruition.

Individual movie tickets are $10 each or a Festival Pass can be purchased for viewing all 15 movies. Festival passes cost $90 for JCC members or $100 for non-members, and can be purchased at the JCC.

Tax-deductible sponsorship opportunities are available. Look for more information about the Jewish Film Festival, sponsorship opportunities and special programming on the JCC website. Those interested in becoming a sponsor should contact Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or 971-0990.

JCC Jewish Film Festival at the Michigan Theater May 5-9

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 5

***Life in Stills*, at 2 p.m.**

ISRAEL, 2011, 60 MINUTES,
HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

This beautiful and inspiring film not only tells the story of "The Photo House," a photo gallery owned by Miriam Weissenstein, but also goes into great detail regarding the relationship between the 96-year-old and her grandson, Ben. Ben comes into the picture to help Miriam when her shop is slated for demolition as he tries to save the building and the nearly one million negatives that document Israel's birth, beginnings and most notable moments in history. Despite the age gap and the differences of opinion, what comes about, is a beautiful glimpse into a very special relationship and a sentimentality that is pure and joyous to watch.

***Numbered*, at 6–7:30 p.m.**

ISRAEL, 2012, 60 MINUTES,
HEBREW, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

This highly visual and emotional film is a collage of narratives and photographs that tells the story of Auschwitz survivors and the relationship they have with that tattooed number on their arms. Through portraits and testimony from these survivors we are drawn into their world by their own words. These numbers each have a journey and a story that each survivor is brave enough to share.

Sponsor Opening Reception, catered by Zingerman's

***Hava Nagila*, at 8 p.m.**

USA, UKRAINE, ISRAEL, 2012, 75 MINUTES,
ENGLISH

How does one song mean so much when so few people understand each and every word? From sporting events to weddings, everyone knows the melody. But where did it come from? What does it mean? This uplifting film features interviews with Harry Belafonte, Leonard Nimoy, Connie Francis, and Glen Campbell, as well as performances of the song by Belafonte, Francis, Danny Kaye, Bob Dylan, Lena Horne, Regina Spektor and Chubby Checker. From the Ukraine to Israel and the Catskills, join us on this hilarious and thoughtful journey. Plan to walk out humming—or maybe singing out loud—this very special and universally appealing melody.

Monday, May 6

***BESA: The Promise*, at 2 p.m.**

USA, 2012, 90 MINUTES, ENGLISH, ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

BESA: The Promise weaves Albania's heroism in WWII through the vérité journeys of two men. Norman Gershman, a renowned Jewish-American photographer, and Rexhep Hoxha, a Muslim-Albanian tell the story of the heroic Albanian families who helped to save so many Jewish lives during the Holocaust. Through first person accounts of survivors, memories from Albanian families, and Gershman's photographs a miraculous story is told, one that bridges all religious and cultural divides.

Guest Speaker: Frances Trix, professor of linguistics and anthropology at Indiana University, Woodrow Wilson Fellow 2012–2013 and winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Albanians American National Organization.

***A Bottle in the Gaza Sea*, at 5 p.m.**

FRANCE, 2010, 90 MINUTES, FRENCH/HEBREW/ENGLISH/
ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Tal is a 17-year-old Frenchwoman who has settled in Jerusalem with her family. She writes a letter expressing her refusal to accept that only hatred can reign between Israelis and Palestinians. She slips the letter into a bottle, and her brother throws it into the sea near Gaza, where he is carrying out his military service. A few weeks later, Tal receives a response from a mysterious "Gazaman," a young Palestinian named Naïm. This engrossing and hopeful drama starring Hiam Abbas is based on the award-winning novel by Valérie Zenatti.

***The Flat*, at 8 p.m.**

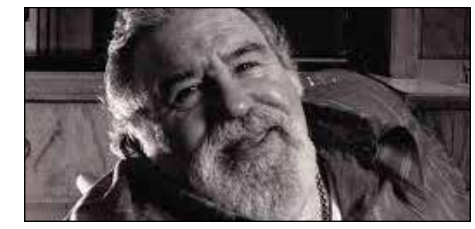
USA, 2012, 90 MINUTES,
ENGLISH, ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

This true-life detective story uncovers much more than the tangled roots of its maker's family tree. The flat in question is the cluttered Tel Aviv apartment of Mr. Goldfinger's recently deceased grandmother, a German Jew who, along with her husband, emigrated from Berlin in the 1930s. Among the antiques, letters and almost a dozen mink stoles was a commemorative coin bearing a swastika on one side and a Star of David on the other. This bizarre artifact would come to symbolize a slowly unraveling mystery, one that would eventually lead to a drowsy German suburb and the daughter of a high-ranking Nazi propagandist.

Tuesday, May 7

***A.K.A.Doc Pomus*, at 2 p.m.**

CANADA, USA, 2012, 98 MINUTES, ENGLISH



Most people would probably not know who Jerome Felder is. Perhaps you don't know who Doc Pomus was either. But you certainly know the music. "Save the Last Dance for Me," "This Magic Moment," "A Teenager in Love," and "Viva Las Vegas" were just a few of this Brooklyn-born songwriter's greatest hits. He poured his pain and difficult life into these classic songs. Through interviews from his close friend Lou Reed, to B.B. King and Dr. John, learn more about Doc Pomus' amazing career and life.

z Larry Kuperman, Cultural Jewish Educator and lecturer on Jews in Rock & Roll

***Yossi*, at 5 p.m.**

ISRAEL, 2012, 84 MINUTES,
HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Eytan Fox's sequel to the 2002 hit *Yossi and Jagger* picks up with Yossi, who by now is a successful doctor but feels empty. His personal life is at a standstill. Spontaneously, he decides to drive south for some relaxation and a much needed break. Along the way he ends up driving a group of soldiers and meets Tom. Perhaps it's not too late for Yossi to feel something again for someone.

***The Day I Saw Your Heart*, at 8 p.m.**

FRANCE, 2011, 98 MINUTES,
FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Families are complicated. Especially when Eli, the father, who's about to be 60, is expecting a baby with his new wife. Upon hearing this news, his two grown daughters, Dom, who is trying to adopt, and Justine, who flits from one boyfriend to the next, are shocked. To get closer to Justine, whom he has never gotten along with, Eli has the bright idea of making friends with all of her exes... without her knowledge. But when Justine falls in love again and Eli is about to ruin everything, this family is on the verge of falling apart. Will they all be able to make peace before it's too late?

Wednesday, May 8

Mendelsohn's Incessant Vision, at 2 p.m.

ISRAEL, POLAND, USA, GERMANY, 2011, 71 MINUTES, ENGLISH

He drew sketches on tiny pieces of paper and sent them, from the WW1 trenches, to a young cellist, who was waiting for him in Berlin. She thought he was a genius and helped him become the busiest architect in Germany. When the Nazis came to power, Erich and Louise Mendelsohn escaped Germany forever. The buildings that Erich built, scattered as a trail of their journey, have changed the history of architecture. This film is a cinematic meditation about the untold story of Erich Mendelsohn, whose life and career were as enigmatic and tragic as the path of the century.

Special guest speaker: Jennifer Perlove Siegel, lecturer in Art History and Urban and Regional Studies at the University of Michigan, Dearborn.

G-ds Neighbors, at 5 p.m.

ISRAEL, 2012, 102 MINUTES, HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

The movie tells the story of three Breslev Hassidic men who force their beliefs on neighborhood residents. They are the neighborhood enforcers of modesty and respect and don't hesitate to get a bit violent. But when the group's leader falls in love he suffers a crisis of faith and must choose between his feelings and his friends.

The Other Son, at 8 p.m.

FRANCE, 2012, 105 MINUTES, FRENCH, HEBREW, ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Two boys, both of who at times feel like outsiders in their own families find out that they have been switched at birth. To add more complexity to the situation, one is Israeli and one is Palestinian. An unlikely bond is formed between them as they try to navigate through this new situation while they learn more about their biological families.

Thursday, May 9

Kaddish for a Friend, at 2p.m.

GERMANY, 2012, 94 MINUTES, GERMAN, ARABIC, HEBREW, RUSSIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Growing up in a Palestinian refugee camp, 14-year-old Ali learned to hate Jews at an early age. After he and his family escape to a new life in Berlin, Ali longs to be accepted by his fellow Arab youths in the public housing project. In a test to prove himself, Ali breaks into the apartment of his neighbor, an elderly Russian Jewish war veteran. But Ali's "friends" follow him into the apartment and vandalize it with abandon. When Alexander unexpectedly returns home, he recognizes only Ali and reports him to the police. To avoid being deported, Ali's parents send him back to Zamskoy's place to repair the damage. This coming-of-age story, inspired by two real people, is a stirring feature debut by Moscow-born German filmmaker Leo Khasin.

Thursday, May 9

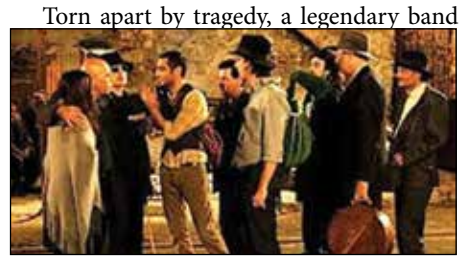
Follow Me: The Yoni Netanyahu Story, at 5 p.m.

USA, 2012, 84 MINUTES, ENGLISH

Most of us know of Yonatan Netanyahu, the brave and elite commander who died fighting to save hostages at Entebbe in July of 1976. But perhaps what you don't know is more about his personal life, his loves and what kind of man he truly was. *The Yoni Netanyahu Story* is an intimate journey into a young hero's mind. The narration for this compelling film was drawn from Yonatan Netanyahu's own letters and words, which unveil the complex character of this thoroughly modern young hero. Yonatan's words are deeply moving through his deep-rooted introspection, self-understanding, and heartfelt passions.

The Ballad of the Weeping Spring, at 8 p.m.

ISRAEL, 2012, 106 MINUTES, HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Torn apart by tragedy, a legendary band reunites to play an emotional final concert in *The Ballad of the Weeping Spring,* a stylized homage to Spaghetti Westerns and samurai epics, shot entirely in Israel but set in a mythical time and place. With a pervasive pan-ethnic soundtrack serving as the film's backbone, the story centers on the brooding Josef Tawila (Ophir winner Uri Gavriel), once the leader of a Mizrahi band (a unique musical form combining Middle Eastern and North African influences), who lives a hermit-like existence in the wake of a terrible accident. In a series of quirky vignettes across stunning exotic locations, Tawila brings together his old musician buddies to grant the last wishes of a dying friend, while healing his own tortured soul.

Afterglow Party Honoring Film Festival Sponsors at Sava (216 South State Street), 9:45 p.m. ■

CELEBRATE!

PLEASE JOIN US

20th Anniversary

Constellation JFS

Extraordinary people inspiring community

April 21, 2013 • 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

University of Michigan North Campus Research Complex

Enjoy wine, conservative kosher hors d'oeuvres and dessert reception

Presenting sponsor: Bank of Ann Arbor helps

For ticket information, contact Cindy Klein 734-769-0209 • cindyk@jfsannarbor.org

Our special thanks to: NWC design | data | print | mail · Russell VIDEO Script to Screen · University of Michigan School of Social Work

The JFS honors its Constellation of Leaders

Thank you to those members of the community that have lent their time, dedication, and resources to make the planning of Constellation JFS a reality. We look forward to celebrating this wonderful milestone with all of you.

Honorary Chairs
Ambassador Ronald M. Weiser
Albert M. Berriz
Kenneth Fischer
Phyllis and David Herzig
Rachel Bendit and Mark Bernstein
Judie and Jerry Lax
Barbara Stark-Nemon and Barry Nemon
Carol Amster
Amy and Ken Colton

Honorary Committee
U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senator Carl Levin
U.S. Representative John Dingell
Rebekah Warren, State Senator
Jeff Irwin, State Representative
Paul Schreiber, Mayor, City of Ypsilanti
John Hieftje, Mayor, City of Ann Arbor
Sabra Briere, Ann Arbor City Council
Sally Hart Petersen, Ann Arbor City Council
Marcia Higgins, Ann Arbor City Council
Stephen Kunselman, Ann Arbor City Council
Chuck Warpehoski, Ann Arbor City Council
Rabbi Robert and Ellen Dobrusin
Rabbi Aharon and Esther Goldstein
Rabbi Robert Levy and Jo Ellen Gutterman
Aura and Aaron Ahuvia
Jeff and Rabbi Ilana Baden
Hadar and Mark Dohn
Julie Gales
David and Deborah Shtulman

Leadership Committee
Helen and David Aminoff
Herbert Aronow and Stephanie Aronow
David Barfield
Patty Benson and Brian Chodoroff
Mark Berg and Fran Lewy-Berg
Joan Binkow
Marjorie and Barry Checkoway
Bette and Alan Cotzin
Trudy Crandall
Karen Epstein
Susan Fisher and John Waidley
Mike and Lisbeth Fried
Anna and Casey Frushour
Charles and Janet Garvin
Steve and Joyce Gerber
Nanette and Steve Gill
Pat Haber
Neel Hajra
Norman and Debbie Herbert
Gideon and Carol Hoffer
Pamela and Stephen Landau
Leslie Kamil and Jon Lockhart
Helen and Noah Kaplan
Scott Kellman
Chuck Kieffer and Marjorie Ziefert
Steve and Shira Klein
Syma and Phillip Kroll
Jeff and Susan Levin
Sonya Lewis and David Lewis
Nancy and Phil Margolis
Bob and Bonnie Miller
Bruce and Gayle Moyer
Chuck and Sharon Newman
Sue and Ed Pear
Andrew Rudick
Sue Sefansky and David Goldstein
Aliza and Howard Shevrin
Dean Solden
Elizabeth and Art Solomon
Jeffrey and Lisa Tulin-Silver
Esther Ullman and Morely Witus
Beth and Jeff Wilensky
Diane Lehman Wilson and Dwight Wilson
Donna Winkelman and Tom Easthope
Naomi Woloshin and Richard Tolman
Israel Woronoff

Planning Committee:
Marjorie Checkoway
Alan Cotzin
Steve and Joyce Gerber
Cindy Klein
Sonya Lewis
Fran Martin
Alice Miller
Simone Yehuda

GenChat: Are you tech savvy?

Do you have a little extra time on your hands? **JFS needs volunteers** to assist older adults who want to video chat with family living out of the area. To sign up for the upcoming training, please contact Kate Thomas-Palmer at kate@jfsannarbor.org or 734-769-0209.

The program kicks off May 1, 2013. The first volunteer training is:

Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at JFS from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Funded by a grant from the Jewish Community Impact Fund of the Federation · Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

JFS Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

CARF Accredited for Excellence — *Case Management/Services Coordination: Psychosocial Rehabilitation Outpatient Treatment: Mental Health Employee Development Services*

Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor · United Way of Washtenaw County · United Way

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT — *Collaborative solutions for a promising future*

Lives Transformed. Hopes Realized.

Celebrating 20 Years of Jewish Family Services: "Constellation JFS"

Cindy Klein, spcial to the WJN

Anya Abramzon is in the unique position of having started at JFS as a student intern very early in the agency's history, and has seen JFS through 17 of its 20 years as executive director. "The success of JFS is result of an entire community coming together. This is why we decided to call our 20th Anniversary event "Constellation JFS," stated Abramzon. "The agency's universe is only made complete with the contributions from its partners (other agencies, donors, staff, volunteers, businesses, and clients); these are the shining stars that have allowed JFS to become a comprehensive, internationally accredited social service agency. This is about extraordinary people inspiring community. "JFS would not be the organization it is today without each of these "stars" supporting it, benefiting from it - keeping the agency in balance," she said.

Abramzon and the JFS board see it as a symbiotic relationship. One of JFS' recent mailings delivered this message: JFS+YOU = Lives Transformed. Hopes Realized. However, Bob Miller, vice-president of development and president-elect sees it as "Your Giving + JFS = the ability to impact thousands of lives each year." Without contributions from donors—in-kind gifts of professional services, financial support, vehicles, food, clothing, household items, gift-cards and furniture—JFS would be unable to meet the needs of its clients," said Miller.

JFS may have begun as a small agency with very little support from individual donors, but now a significant portion of its budget comes from individual gifts. Recently, JFS asked their donors why they give to the agency. Phyllis Herzig, JFS president, explained that "individual giving allows us the flexibility to provide services that are either under-funded or have no other source of funding. The financial support provided by our donors is what keeps our clients from drowning."

In 2009, through the generosity of the Bendit-Bernstein family and hundreds of other individual donors, the specially created Bendit-Bernstein fund was able to provide more than $100,000 in crisis services over two years at the peak of the financial crisis, meeting the needs of 1000s of people in Washtenaw County who had nowhere else to turn for assistance. Bank of Ann Arbor, another star in "Constellation JFS," provided the agency with a line of credit, which allowed JFS the flexibility to help more people than ever while maintaining the financial stability of the agency at a particularly difficult time.

Donors at JFS's 2012 "Leading the Way" event honoring Carol Amster enjoy the Rackham Terrace

Donor Carol Hoffer put it like this: "I give to JFS because they get assistance directly to those who need it when they need it. JFS listens to their needs and uses counselling and creativity to build confidence and help people transition into the workplace or other new situations."

Personal experience motivates people to support JFS. Often, it revolves around caregiving. Rena Seltzer said, "When my in-laws in Philadelphia were experiencing health problems, we suggested they call Jewish Family Services. Someone came out to their home, assessed their needs, and connected them with services. I've always known that JFS did important work, but this experience made it very real and concrete for us." Out-of-town caregivers also support JFS. "I live in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, DC, and support my local Jewish community. I made my donation to thank JFS for the SPICE program regularly presented at Brookhaven Manor, my father's residence, because it enriches his life even at age 91. I am a Jew by choice, my father is Episcopalian. The SPICE program allows him to learn about my faith, its beliefs, and its traditions, and thus, serves as a connection between me, my family, and my dad. I am very grateful." says Catherine Copp of Rockville, Maryland.

Some JFS supporters have never used the agency's services, but support JFS because they believe in the need for a community safety net. Esther Ullman told JFS, "I am grateful that we have a local agency to help with job training, language skills and other supports those members of our community need. I value agencies that focus on the 'under-served,' people who have real day to day needs that JFS can help them with, so that they can improve their skills, lives and opportunities."

The long-term survival of JFS and its programs is so important that some donors have chosen to fund endowments. Syma and Phillip Kroll funded transportation; Ed and Susan Pear's endowment supports ElderLink, Partners in Care Concierge and other caregiver supports. Barry Nemon and Barbara Stark-Nemon have a fund for Youth Services, and Phyllis and David Herzig and Margie and Barry Checkoway each support JFS Older Adult Services with endowments. "No agency's programming is complete without long-term, sustainable giving through endowments and bequests," Anya Abramzon said. "We are so grateful to all those who have chosen to provide support for the agency that will last beyond their lifetime."

Small business partners in Ann Arbor value and support JFS as well. Don Ottomeyer, president and CEO of Interim HealthCare, shared this with JFS. "As a person that has volunteered for hospice for 25 years and the last two years worked exclusively in the older adult services field, I see firsthand the work JFS does. It provides care for people of all religious beliefs and does so in a way that makes their life better. Having seen the work JFS does…my question is why would anyone not contribute?"

Everyone is invited to join Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County in celebrating 20 years of service to the community on Sunday, April 21. The event, "Constellation JFS," will be held at the University of Michigan North Campus Research Center from 4–6 p.m. Enjoy music by SwanSong Musical Productions, the songs of Zach Barnes, and a wine, hors d'oeuvres and dessert reception, as JFS honors the constellation of partners that has helped make the agency so successful.

Each year since 2003, JFS has awarded the Claire and Isadore Bernstein Leadership Award to persons or organizations demonstrating superior community leadership, just as the Bernsteins did in Ann Arbor for over 50 years. On this occasion there will be three recipients of the JFS Claire and Isadore Bernstein Leadership Award:

- The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, for its longtime support of JFS, beginning long before the agency was established;
- Bank of Ann Arbor, for the leadership it demonstrates to all businesses in Ann Arbor by its support of over 140 non-profit organizations and their critical missions that improve and strengthen the community;
- Anya Abramzon, executive director of JFS, for her key role in making the Ann Arbor Jewish community's dream for a comprehensive, professional and accredited social service agency become a reality.

JFS employees Elina Zilberberg, associate director, and Andre Yastchenko, director of International and Transportation Services, will also be receiving awards for 15 years of dedicated service to the agency. This event is made possible with the support of the presenting sponsor Bank of Ann Arbor, Platinum Sponsor Russell Video, Gold Sponsor NWC Printing, the U-M School of Social Work,and others who will be acknowledged at the event. ■

Tickets for "Constellation JFS" are $100 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Cindy Klein at 769-0209, cindyk@jfsannarbor.org, or visit the JFS website: www.jfsannarbor.org.

Jewish Bereavement Group begins April 8 at JFS

Cindy Klein, special to the WJN

The first session of the Jewish Bereavement Group will take place Monday, April 8, at Jewish Family Services. The group will meet Monday evenings, April 8 through May 13, from 7–8:30 p.m. Group size is limited to 8 to 10 members. Adults, ages 18 and over, may participate.

The bereavement group will provide support for those experiencing grief and loss of a loved one, within a context that recognizes the specific needs related to Jewish customs, beliefs and practices. In addition, the group will have the positive effect of bringing together Jews from the many diverse segments of the community to comfort and support one another, deepening and enhancing our community as a whole. Affiliated or unaffiliated Jews from all walks of life are welcome.

The group will be facilitated by Rabbi Sara Adler, Jewish chaplain for the University of Michigan Health System, and social worker Barbra Mazie, LMSW. A screening by a JFS social worker is required in advance, and may be scheduled by calling Lisa Franklin at 769-0209. You do not need a doctor's referral to attend.

There is no cost for the screening or to attend the group because it is funded by a Community Impact Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. All services are confidential.

JFS' counseling services are accredited by CARF International. A second session will be offered in the fall. For additional information, contact Lisa Franklin lfranklin@jfsannarbor.org or 769-0209.

Volunteers needed for new JFS program: GenChat

Cindy Klein, special to the WJN

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County (JFS) was recently awarded a Community Impact Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor for a new intergenerational program to help decrease the isolation of older adults in our community. Originally called, "Generations Skype," the name was changed to "GenChat" to avoid any complications with trademarked names.

GenChat involves bringing iPads or other tablets with 3G capability to the home of an older adult to facilitate a pre-arranged online video visit with long-distance family members or friends. Using Skype, Google Hangout, FaceTime or other programs, tech-savvy volunteers will facilitate the technological side of the visit, leaving the older adult to simply enjoy the time communicating with their families. "This program allows the older adult to have the benefit of technology without having to purchase internet service and devices, and then learn how to use them," says Anya Abramzon, executive director of JFS. "This is will be especially beneficial for persons on limited incomes or older adults who are unable to travel," she states.

GenChat will also be helpful for older adults who must be isolated from their local grandchildren due to chemotherapy, shingles, or other medical conditions. Depending on demand and availability, GenChat sessions will occur once or twice a month per participant. JFS will have tablets available for volunteers to borrow, although volunteers who wish to use their own equipment and data plans may do so.

JFS is currently seeking volunteers to help facilitate the GenChat sessions. This is a great opportunity for a younger person to use their technological expertise to brighten the life of an isolated older adult. Call Kate Thomas-Palmer at kate@jfsannarbor.org or by calling 769-0209. The first volunteer training is Wednesday, April 24, 7–8:30 pm.

April SPICE* of Life

***Social, Physical, Intellectual, Cultural, and Educational Programs for Adults**

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

Tuesdays

11 a.m.: Energy Exercise© with Maria Farquhar. $4 per session.
Noon: Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person
1 p.m.: Mah-jongg, sewing and quilting.

Thursdays

10 a.m.: Energy Exercise© with Maria Farquhar. $4 per session.
11 a.m.: Current Events with Heather Dombey. A discussion of this week's news. Bring items of interest for group discussion.
Noon: Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person
1 p.m.: Thursday Special Events and Presentations (see below for details)

Special events and Presentations

Thursday, April 4

12:30 p.m.: Birthday celebration for all with March Birthdays! Bring family and friends for lunch and birthday cake.
1 p.m.: Join SPICE for a screening of the documentary *Food Inc.*, a film about food production in America.

Thursday, April 11

Noon: A registered nurse from Care Response will provide free blood pressure checks.
1 p.m.: Kim Wilcox and Michael Appel from Avalon Housing will present on their organization.

Thursday, April 18

1 p.m.: Charles Newman and Susan Ayer will lead an interactive presentation on making photographic keepsakes. Attendees are asked to bring a photograph of something that they intend to bequeath or a picture of someone significant in their life. There will be an opportunity to record the story about the photo or object for future generations. Family members are invited to come and participate as well.

Thursday, April 25

1 p.m.: Ann Arbor local Laurel Federbush will play a selection of music on her harp. Federbush's repertoire includes classical, Celtic and contemporary.

Katz & Co to perform Klezmer, classical and more at TBE benefit concert

Soo JiMin, special to the WJN

This 5th biennial benefit concert by clarinetist Ralph Katz for the Temple Beth Emeth Brotherhood will present a varied program of classical, Balkan, and Klezmer music, joined by the Dexter Community Orchestra Wind Ensemble, other members of The Ethnic Connection, and keyboardist Dr. Ray McLellan. The concert will take place on Saturday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m., at Temple Beth Emeth. Admission is $15 ($10 students / seniors).

The program will include Karl Reinecke: Octet for Winds Op. 216, Bernhard Heiden: Sonatina for Clarinet and Piano (1955), Luigi Bassi: Fantasie Brillante on themes from Verdi's Rigoletto (pub. 1905) and Balkan and Klezmer selections by The Ethnic Connection

Ralph Katz

Ralph Katz is a versatile musician who has performed with a large range of groups, most recently with Dexter Community Orchestra, Klezmer Fusion Band, Klezmer R&D, and Opera On Tap.

The DCO Wind Ensemble, formed 3 years ago, is a classical harmonie group: flute, oboe, two clarinets, two horns, and two bassoons.

The Ethnic Connection is a quartet that has performed music from Eastern Europe and other cultures at concerts, folk dances, weddings, and other events since 1988. Members are David Owens (accordion, vocals), Nan Nelson (mandolin, tambura, guitar, dumbek, bass, vocals), Carol Palms (violin, bass, vocals), and Ralph Katz (clarinet, frula, dumbek, vocals).

Dr. Ray McLellan is accompanist at TBE, music director of Michael the Archangel Parish in Monroe, and university carillonneur at Michigan State University.

For more information, call 663-1288 or email dumpster605@tds.net. ■

New JLI course explores tales of the Talmud

Mendel Sirota, special to the WJN

The Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) will present Curious Tales of the Talmud: Finding Yourself in the Legends of Our Sages, the institute's new six-session Spring 2013 course that will begin during the week of April 30.

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein of Ann Arbor Chabad House will conduct the six course sessions at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays starting April 30 at the Chabad House and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor.

"We'll explore the mystical dimension of the Talmud called the Aggadah, to uncover profound wisdom from some of the zaniest and most epic legends you'll ever encounter," said Rabbi Zalman Abraham of JLI's headquarters in Brooklyn, New York. "This is a chance for the public to unravel layers of personal meaning from texts not usually available to non-scholars."

In Curious Tales of the Talmud, participants will encounter legends of gargantuan sea monsters, impossible feats, anthropomorphisms, and riddles that challenge the foundations of the Jewish faith. In deciphering the meaning behind these strange episodes, students will discover secrets containing profound insights into the meaning of life.

"Whether you are fascinated by the Talmud and Jewish mysticism, or whether you are seeking a fun and meaningful experience, you won't want to miss this course," said Rabbi Goldstein. "The material is as relevant as ever, promising to deepen the way we understand ourselves, our universe, and our relationships with the people we love."

JLI Group

Like all JLI programs, Curious Tales of the Talmud is designed to appeal to people at all levels of Jewish knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

Interested students may call 995-3276 x 2 or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and other course-related information. ■

"The Skin You Live In" at Jewish Women's Circle in April

Mae Sander, special to the WJN

Do you want to know more about how to care for your skin? Would you like to learn about recent research results concerning Retin A and antioxidents? Do you know how to protect yourself against the effects of too much sun?

"The Skin You Live In" will be the topic of a talk by Dr. Dana Sachs at the next Jewish Women's Circle event on Monday, April 15, at 7:15 p.m. A specialist in general dermatology and cosmetic dermatology, she will describe the basic biology of skin, essentials of skin care, and how to identify potential skin cancers.

Sachs elaborates, "In my talk I will demystify vitamin A creams, such as Retin-A, and explain how they work as anti-aging drugs. For decades, aging skin has been the subject of leading research at the University of Michigan Medical School. After a basic description of the skin, I'll discuss issues such as skin problems caused by exposure to UV light. These issues include cosmetic problems, such as redness and wrinkles, and also serious problems, such as skin cancer. I'll describe some warning signs indicating when you should see a doctor."

Dr. Dana Sachs

Sachs is a board-certified dermatologist at the University of Michigan Department of Dermatology, where she has been a clinical associate professor since 2004. In 2007 she was listed in *Detroit Hour* as one of the area's top dermatologists, and has been listed as one of the "Best Doctors in America" from 2007 to the present. Sachs received her medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine. She is active in clinical research related to the treatment of aging skin with various topical preparations.

The Jewish Women's Circle provides an opportunity for Jewish women to meet new friends, socialise, and learn about a variety of issues. It is open to all, no affiliation necessary. A $10 donation is requested. Space is limited. To sign up for this meeting and receive future invitations from the Jewish Women's Circle, send an email to goblue1800@gmail.com. ■

Hadassah to hold Game Night in May

Julie Ellis, special to the WJN

Ann Arbor Hadassah will host Game Night, Thursday, May 2, at 7 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. This event is open to all women in the community for a $5 entry fee, payable at the door. There will be games of Mah Jongg, bridge, Scrabble, Rummikub and more. Lessons will be available for those who want to learn Mah Jongg. The evening will also include desserts, snacks, beverages, and a raffle. RSVP to Julie Ellis at 665-0439 or juliergellis@yahoo.com.

Between a rock and a wet place

Rabbi Ahron Goldstein, special to the WJN

This year, April 1 is the seventh day of Pesach. Therefore it would be appropriate to learn something about what happened on the seventh day of the first Pesach, which would be the splitting of the Red Sea.

By the way of background let's go back a week before – that would be the 14th of Nissan – when the Jewish people first sacrificed the Pascal lamb. They put the blood on the lintels and doorposts of their homes and had their first seder with the Pascal lamb and Matzos. Then at midnight came the plague of the death of the firstborn and Pharoah came running, looking for Moses in order to let the Jewish people go. He actually begged Moses to take the people and leave. On the morning of the 15th of Nissan the Jews finally left Egypt. From there they headed towards Israel and within the week they reached the Red Sea. While at the shore of the Red Sea, they became aware that Pharoah and his army were in pursuit and they realized that they were trapped – to modify the common saying- between a rock and a wet place. They needed a miracle. God split the sea for them, drowned the Egyptians, and the rest, as they say, is history. This happened a week after they left Egypt.

It is written that the sea split into two parts with walls of water on each side and dry land in the middle for the Jewish people to walk upon. The Torah describes this twice. Not only was it miraculous that the seabed was dry, but also that there were 2 walls of water on the left and the right that held back the sea. This poses a question. If God's purpose for the miracle was to allow the Jewish people to cross the sea in order to escape from the Egyptians, it seems that it would have been sufficient to simply to a wall of water from one side without a wall from the other side. Why make a double miracle to make 2 walls of water? Why the special effect of walking between two towering walls of water? We ask these questions because God always has a reason for performing any miracle. So we have to say that this additional miracle of having the two walls of water was an integral part of the event. What then can we learn from all this? The Midrash addresses this question in the following way.

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein

At the time God split the Red Sea, there were prosecuting angels that had a claim to God that the Jewish people did not deserve to have such a great miracle happen in order to spare them. Why should the Jewish people be saved and the Egyptians be drowned? The angels claim was that the Jews and the Egyptians were equal. The Egyptians were guilty of worshipping idols – but so were the Jews. Immediately prior to departing Egypt, the Jews were at the 49th level of impurity. This is the lowest possible level of impurity that still has the potential for redemption. If they had sunk one more level into impurity (level 50), there would have been no hope for redemption. The Midrash answers that God told the prosecuting angels the Jews merited this miracle on the basis of two very special Mitzvahs that they were going to be able to do if they survived. One is connected to their right side and the other is connected to their left side. Which Mitzvah is connected to the right side? That is the Mitzvah of studying Torah. We know that God gave us the Torah with His right hand. The right side bears the attributes of giving, kindness and mercy (chesed). It is with these qualities God gave us the Torah - He being the giver and we being the receivers. Which Mitzvah is connected to the left side? That is the Mitzvah of prayer. We know that God receives our prayers. The left side bears the attributes of withdrawing and elevating oneself to God, It is with these qualities God receives our prayer service - He being the receiver and we being the givers.

(In some other opinions, it is Tefillin (phylacteries) rather than Tefilla (prayer) that is the Mitzvah of the left side as Tefillin are generally placed on the left arm and hand.)

Therefore the Midrash concludes that the Jewish people will be learning Torah and praying and putting on Tefillin. So in that merit God split the Red Sea for them.

This is the answer to the question regarding the addition of the two walls (right and left sides) to the crossing of the Red Sea. It was in the merit of the Jewish people:

1: Studying Torah

2: Putting on Tefillin and/or Praying

A question nevertheless remains. Why do we need two merits? It is well and good to have these two merits in our favor, but why two? God could have just as easily dried

Continued on page 10

Thoughts on the 65th birthday of the State of Israel

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

It is time once again to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel Independence Day, and to say *shehecheyanu* with all of our hearts as we recognize the accomplishments of the State of Israel and our tremendous privilege to have witnessed and participated in her growth. It is a time to celebrate all that Israel has meant for our people and for the world during the past 65 years, and it is a time also to look ahead.

I believe without question in the legitimacy of Israel's existence as a Jewish State; and in that light, I believe that there is a critical question that must be asked by those who love and support Israel worldwide.

That question is: "What exactly should it mean for Israel to call itself a Jewish State?"

There are those who will ask whether this is the correct time to be thinking about this question. With Israel facing serious threats to her survival and with so many in the world questioning the legitimacy of the nation, is this really a question that Israel's friends need to ask now? The answer, I believe, is absolutely yes.

Many in Israel are asking this question as well. Last year, at Beth Israel, we participated in an educational program created by the Hartman Institute of Jerusalem called "Engaging Israel". The objective of the program is to encourage Diaspora Jews to talk about the issues facing Israel, to be part of a dialogue with Israeli scholars concerning Israel's future, and to understand that the word "Jewish" as in "Jewish State" is a word which has tremendous significance and multiple potential meanings. Each of us brings our own perspective to the word "Jewish;" and, therefore, we bring our own perspective to the term "Jewish State". The Hartman Institute's initiative is based on the belief that if Israel wishes to remain vital in the lives of Diaspora Jews, discussions about Israel from the perspective of Jewish history and values must take place.

I was eager to participate in this program, as at Kol Nidre services one year before I had shared my thoughts on this topic with the congregation. I had promised we would discuss these issues as a community. The "Engaging Israel" program gave us that opportunity and it was a powerful and meaningful experience for all who participated in the discussions.

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin

The program encouraged all of us to make our voices heard in appropriate, respectful ways when we discuss issues concerning Israel. While we should recognize without question that those who live in Israel should have a greater impact on Israel's actions and policies, the truth is that if Israel wants to engage Diaspora Jews, our voices must be heard as well.

In my sermon, the complete text of which can be found on our synagogue website, I raised three issues relating to the words "Jewish State". Each, in my opinion, is critical as we consider what it means to each of us to be a Jew and how that reflects issues within Israel.

First, I believe the title "Jewish State" must not be used to disenfranchise or discriminate against any citizen of the state. Israel must be an equal democracy in which opportunity, services and security are offered equally to all.

There is no question that Israel seeks to provide this in many ways and that, in many case, minorities in Israel enjoy significant opportunities and rights especially compared to minorities in other nations in the region. However, it is also true that there are many situations in which non-Jewish citizens of Israel, particularly Israeli Arabs and Bedouin, are not treated equally when it comes to issues such as education, housing and government services. This is not right and has to change.

I believe that a "Jewish State" should by definition respect the common humanity of all. While the "Jewishness" of the state might be reflected in symbols, calendar and other ways, the basic Jewish principle of the equality of all human beings demands that all steps be taken to insure that equality exists not only on paper but on the ground as well.

I have tremendous admiration for those in Israel who are working for co-existence and mutual respect, and for those who support them from afar. I applaud our local Federation and other organizations that support those efforts, and believe that they are critical for the future of Israel.

Secondly, while Israel as a "Jewish State" should not compromise on the absolute obligation to work for the survival of our people, it must also conduct itself with an eye towards the ethical standards that are the foundation of our faith. This must certainly be considered in Israel's relations with the Palestinian people.

The blame for the continued conflict cannot, of course, be placed on Israel alone. Terrorism against Israel and rejection of attempts at reconciliation are a critical part of the history of this conflict. However, I believe that today, Israel must do much more - even given reasonable security considerations - to address the daily issues that Palestinians face and to pursue and embrace any reasonable opportunity for a peaceful settlement of the conflict based on the "two state solution".

The justification of governmental or military actions, such as building or expansion of settlements on disputed land or excessive interference in the daily lives of Palestinians on the basis of security needs, is wrong and dangerous. It is certainly harmful for Palestinians and it is destructive for Israel, as well, as Israel's future survival is not dependent only on physical security but on its moral and ethical values as well.

I applaud the actions of those who address these issues. I am proud to be a strong supporter of Rabbis for Human Rights in Israel and to serve as the co-chair of T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights (formerly Rabbis for Human Rights-North America). I believe organizations such as these are critical to continue to focus attention on these issues among those who love and support Israel and to work for positive change.

Finally, as a Jew whose connection with our people is principally through our religious and spiritual traditions, I believe that the Jewish State needs to more seriously consider its role as a source of spiritual inspiration for Jews throughout the world. While Israel definitely should not be a theocracy, we should be able to see in Israel an inspiration for our spiritual lives.

The Israeli government must respect different approaches to Judaism and Jewish observance and must take active steps to stop the continued and increasingly severe actions that disenfranchise non-Orthodox Jews in Israel.

In addition, Israelis and Diaspora Jews should strengthen the spiritual connection we have with each other.

This is definitely happening as institutions in Israel, like the Hartman Institute and the Masorti (Conservative) and Reform movements, reach out to Diaspora Jews. It is also happening as different communities in Israel, such as our own partner community of Nahalal, experiment with approaches to Jewish observance. If we are to continue to feel connected to Israel on a spiritual level, these efforts must continue and increase and we must take advantage of opportunities to share in that growth.

I have been to Israel 13 times (one of the perks of being a rabbi) and am looking forward to organizing a trip in the near future that would address some of the areas I described above. I believe such endeavors are critical for the future of our relationship with Israel. As we celebrate Israel's 65th birthday, let us realize that to acclaim Israel as a "Jewish State" is only meaningful if we give serious thoughts to what these words mean for the future of the country we love.

May this year see peace and security for all. ■

Brysk to talk on the Art of the Holocaust

Karen Freedland Special to WJN

Miriam Brysk, a Holocaust survivor from Poland, will present a lecture on The Art of the Holocaust, on Sunday April 7, at 3 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. Admission is free and part of Yom HaShoah Remembrance Day.

Miriam Brysk, Ph.D., is a Holocaust survivor from the Lida ghetto and the Partisans of Belorussia. She came to America in 1947 and went on to become a scientist and professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch. Since her retirement and move to Ann Arbor, she has become an artist and writer depicting the plight of the Jews during the Holocaust.

Brysk's renewed interest in the Holocaust was fueled by her return in 2002 to the former locations of the ghettos and camps of Eastern Europe in a group led by Zvi Gittelman. She cried her way through the entire trip as the wounds of her past reopened. She was haunted by images of her vanished family, while childhood fears reemerged as frightening nightmares. She felt a deep need to portray their suffering and return to them their dignity as Jews.

This trip was the impetus that began her new career as a Holocaust artist. She has created three large bodies of art which have been displayed in over 25 solo exhibits in Holocaust museums, art galleries, colleges, universities and Jewish Community Centers around the country. Three of her works are now part of the permanent art collection at Yad Vashem, and a book of her art, *The Stones Weep: Teaching the Holocaust through a Survivor's Art* is in press at Gihon River Press.

For information or to RSVP, contact Karen Freedland at 971-0090 or karenfreedland@jccfed.org. ■

Brysk will also give a lecture at Eastern Michigan University on "My Life and My Art and Teaching the Holocaust through Art," on Wednesday, April 3, at 7 p.m., at the EMU Student Center Auditorium. The lecture is sponsored by the Art, English, and Judaic Studies departments at EMU.

Rabbi Goldstein, continued from page 9

up one side of the sea and made a wall on only one side. Why two is the question. Why Torah study AND Tefilla or Tefillin? Just studying Torah would seem to be sufficient. The answer is as follows.

We have to see the inner meaning of the splitting of the Red Sea. This miracle wasn't only a logistical means to save the Jewish people from the Egyptians. God could have used other methods to stop Pharoah from his mission. The fact that He chose to split the Red Sea tells us that there is intrinsic, symbolic meaning in this specific act. To split is to reveal. The sea conceals the seabed. When the sea is split, the splitting reveals what the sea previously concealed. This symbolizes that in this physical world Godliness (the truth of God) is concealed. At that moment in time the revelation of God was needed in this physical world. It was such a momentous event that it is written that even the future Jewish prophets would not have as strong a revelation of God as the entire Jewish people had at that time. So this was the purpose of the splitting of the Red Sea - to have a great revelation of God – a revelation beyond physical limitations. Through what merit did our ancestors deserve to be granted the sight of this great revelation of God in the physical world? The Jewish people had to show God that the manner in which they were serving Him also went beyond their limitations. How does one show God that they are serving beyond their limitations? One shows their service to God in two opposite ways – such as studying Torah AND praying. If one serves God in only one way – for example, Torah study only- they are constantly studying Torah but they don't dedicate time to pray. One could question their dedication to God. Why? Perhaps they are studying Torah for the main reason that they like to study Torah. They are not doing it for God's sake, but only for their own sake. In order to determine if one is doing a mitzvah for the proper reason we can see if they are doing the opposite Mitzvah – in this case praying. Recall that the right side is Torah study – bringing God down to this world - and the left side is prayer – working our prayers up from this world to the heavenly realms of God. So if a Torah scholar is praying in addition to studying, we can see they are doing both opposing methods of service so we can assume that their overall service is based on their sense of duty and not merely satisfying their inherent selfish pleasures. Some people are more inherently kind and giving. Other people are more inherently judgmental and withholding. If a person serves God with, not only their primary nature but with the opposite, non-predominant side as well, this illustrates a person is serving God in a properly balanced manner.

When one serves God in these two opposite ways, they reveal that they are going beyond their inherent qualities. Such is what God did by going beyond the laws of nature and causing the sea to split with 2 walls.

Therefore we conclude that the part of the miracle that God made with the splitting of the Red Sea – making these two walls – was not a separate miracle but rather it was the very essence of the event. The purpose of the miracle was to reveal the higher levels of God. The two walls were to illustrate that when one serves God through two opposite natures, one shows that they are giving beyond their limitations. We serve God optimally and properly through our right-side nature AND our left-side nature. This type of dedication to God, serving Him in these two opposing ways, is the preparation to remove the concealment of God in this world and to reveal God in this world. This will ultimately take place with the coming of Moshiach when, on that day everyone will be able to see with their own eyes, the greatness of God. May it be speedily in our days. ■

This month at Temple Beth Emeth

Rabbi Lisa Delson, special to the WJN

Families with Young Children (FYC): Shabbat Service times every Friday

Fridays, April 5, 12, 19, 26
Tot Shabbat Services (0–5 year olds) led by Rabbi Levy and Cantor Annie Rose, 5:30 p.m.
Dinner for Tot Shabbat 6:00 p.m.
Sukkat Shalom (Shabbat service for Elementary school students) with Rabbi Delson and Cantor Rose, 6:30 p.m.
Shira (Tot Song Session), 6:30 p.m.
Popsicle Oneg, 7:00 p.m.

Generations After Yom Ha'Shoah Shabbat Service

April 5, 7:30 p.m.

Every year, Generations After, TBE's affinity group for those whose families survived the Holocaust, honor the memory of the six million who perished. This year the group will lead the Shabbat service with Torah reading. They will also honor the memory of the six million who perished by providing personal narratives and poetry surrounding the ideas of Jewish continuity. The entire Ann Arbor community is welcome to this very moving service.

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

Weekly, April 6, 13, 20, 27, 8:50–9:50 a.m.

Each week, Rabbi Delson and Rabbi Levy lead a session discussing the weekly Torah portion. No experience is necessary, an open mind and questions are always welcome. If there is not bar or bat mitzvah the hour concludes by saying Kaddish for loved ones.

Spirituality Book Club

Tuesday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.,
Thursday, April 4 at noon

April's book: *Messages from the Masters: Tapping into the Power of Love by Brian Weiss*

Join Cantor Annie Rose for the fourth season of the spirituality book club! All are welcome to come to every meeting or on occasion for specific books of interest. Choose either the day time or evening session. Widely ranging topics highlight our list of books by: Rabbi Ralph Mecklenburger, Sylvia Boorstein, Karen Armstrong, Harold Kushner, Rodger Kamenetz, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Leonard Felder, Brian Weiss, and Michael Krasny. This book club is for firm believers, non-believers, gentle skeptics, and interested seekers. For more information, please contact Cantor Rose, cantorannie@gmailcom.

Women's Torah Study

Monthly, April 1 and 15, 7 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

For centuries, women were not encouraged to study Torah. Times have changed and women are encouraged and empowered to study Torah with the same vigor as men. Join in for a unique experience to study and discuss what the Torah has to say through the voices of women. For questions, contact Cantor Annie Rose at cantorannieatgmail.com.

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Levy

Fridays, April 5, 12, 19, 26, noon–1 p.m.

Rabbi Levy will be discussing the march to the Torah, from Passover to Shavuot. All sessions are held in the Adult Lounge and are open to the community. Lunch is not provided, bring your own.

Men's Torah Study

Wednesdays, April 10 and 24, 7:30–9 p.m.

Temple Beth Emeth's Men's Torah study meets twice a month for an evening of learning. Refreshments served. For more information, contact Roger Stutesman, rgstutesmanatsbcglobal.net.

TNT: MOTH Story Slam

Tuesday, April 16, 6:30 p.m., show begins 7:30 p.m.

Join TNT for a night of stories at the MOTH Story slam at the Circus Bar (316 S. First St). The theme for this night is mystery. Meet at 6:30 p.m. to make to get a seat, the show begins at 7:30. RSVP to Rabbi Delson ldelson@templebethemeth.org.

TNT: Torah on Tap

Thursday, April 25, 6 p.m.

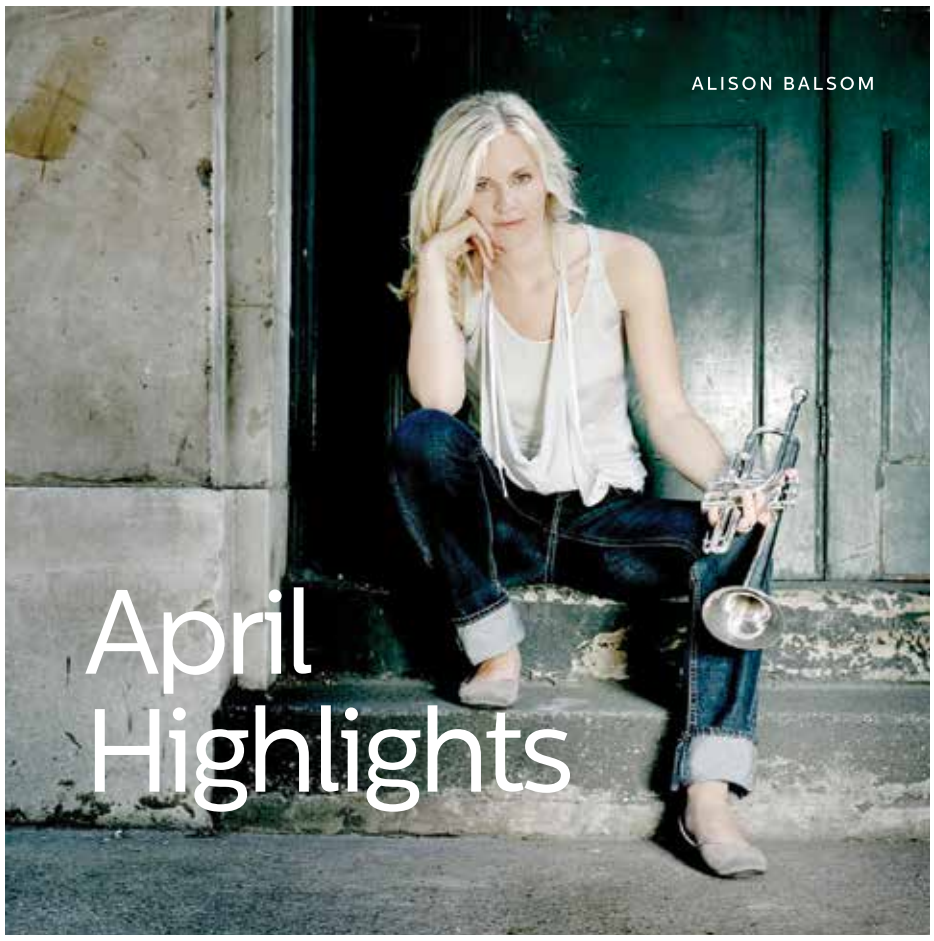
Back by popular demand, TNT will spend some time learning from our Jewish tradition and enjoying a beverage or two. Come to the Blue Tractor (207 East Washington Street). Everyone is welcome. No text experience is necessary as everything will be translated into English. ■

Esther's Underground Purim Party

Soo JiMin, special to the WJN

On February 25, Temple Beth Emeth's Twenties and Thirties group sponsored a Purim party for the entire Ann Arbor community. More than 50 people attended and enjoyed a private room and free rounds of pool at Bab's Underground Lounge. Many guests came in costumes and for those who did not, there were enough hats, sunglasses, and masks to go around. This free event was the highlight of the TNT year and a similar party is scheduled for next Purim as well. For more information about TNT, contact Rabbi Lisa Delson at ldelson@templebethemeth.org.

PHOTO CREDIT BRENT PLISKOW



Darius Milhaud's *Oresteia of Aeschylus*

L'Agamemnon · Les Choéphores · Les Euménides

A co-production of UMS and the U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance

University Symphony Orchestra
University Choir
UMS Choral Union
Kenneth Kiesler, conductor

Chamber Choir
Orpheus Singers
Percussion Ensemble

Sophie Delphis, speaker
Sarah Coburn, Julianna Di Giacomo, Caitlin Lynch, and Lori Phillips, sopranos
Kristin Eder and Tamara Mumford, mezzo-sopranos
Jennifer Lane, contralto
Dan Kempson and Sidney Outlaw, baritones

Thursday, April 4, 7:30pm
Hill Auditorium

To commemorate 100 years of UMS collaborations with the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance, we celebrate with a massive orchestral and choral work: Darius Milhaud's *Oresteia of Aeschylus*, a rarely-performed work set for vocal soloists, chorus, orchestra, and a battery of percussion instruments. The work relates the bloody chain of murder and revenge within the royal family of Argos. In French with English supertitles.

Funded in part by **Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs** and the **National Endowment for the Arts**
Media Partner **WGTE 91.3 FM**

Esperanza Spalding
Radio Music Society

Saturday, April 6, 8 pm
Michigan Theater

Esperanza Spalding vaulted into the mainstream when she snagged the 2011 Grammy for Best New Artist—the first time a jazz musician had ever won in that category. After wowing UMS audiences as a member of Joe Lovano's "Us Five" Quintet in 2007, she returns with her new album, *Radio Music Society*, which won the 2013 Grammy for Best Vocal Jazz Album. "Whether exploding into vocalese or making her bass solo sound like a horn, she's a spark plug who dances as she grooves through a funked-up and rocked-out repertoire." (*Billboard*)

Media Partners **WDET 101.9 FM**, **WEMU 89.1 FM**, and **Ann Arbor's 107one**

Takács Quartet

Friday, April 12, 8 pm
Rackham Auditorium

PROGRAM

Haydn	Quartet in B-flat Major, Op. 76, No. 4 ("Sunrise") (1796-97)
Britten	Quartet No. 3 in G Major, Op. 94 (1975)
Beethoven	Quartet in c-sharp minor, Op. 131 (1826)

Sponsored by Howard Hanna
Media Partner **WGTE 91.3 FM**

Alison Balsom, trumpet
The Scottish Ensemble

Saturday, April 20, 8 pm
Hill Auditorium

Born in 1978, trumpeter Alison Balsom has headlined one of classical music's most celebrated concerts — the last night of the BBC Proms — and also appeared on "The Late Show" with David Letterman, a platform few classical artists have gained access to. She makes her UMS debut with The Scottish Ensemble, a versatile and ambitious group of outstanding musicians. The second half of her program will be performed on a "natural" trumpet — a valveless instrument that requires changes in lip pressure to produce the different notes.

PROGRAM

Geminiani	Concerto Grosso No. 12 in d minor ("La Follia")
Albinoni	Oboe Concerto in B-flat, Op. 7, No. 3 (arr. Balsom)
Handel	Concerto Grosso in B-flat Major, Op. 6, No. 7
Vivaldi	Violin Concerto in D Major, RV 230 (arr. Balsom)
Handel	Overture from *Atalanta*
Purcell	Dance of the Furies from *The Prophetess*
Purcell	Selections from *King Arthur*
Purcell	Chacony in g minor
Purcell	Fantastia on One Note
Handel	Suite in D Major for Trumpet and Strings

A Prelude Dinner precedes the performance. Reservations: 734-764-8489.

Sponsored by United Bank & Trust
Supported by **Renegade Ventures Fund**, **Jerry and Gloria Abrams**, and **Dennis and Ellie Serras**
Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **WRCJ 90.9 FM**

Trojan Women (after Euripides)
SITI Company

Anne Bogart, director
Adapted by Jocelyn Clarke

Saturday, April 27, 8 pm
Sunday, April 28, 2 pm
Power Center

In the ruins of their burning city, the royal women of Troy — still mourning the slaughter of their husbands and sons — await enslavement and exile.

The Trojan Women, by the Greek playwright Euripides, was first performed over 2,400 years ago during the Peloponnesian War and is widely considered a commentary on the barbaric behavior of the Athenians toward the women and children they subjugated. This SITI Company adaptation approaches Euripides' tale from a contemporary perspective, mining the universal struggle to move forward in the face of tragic, crippling loss.

Opening Night Post-Performance Q&A

Presented with support form the **Herbert S. and Carol L. Amster Fund**
Media Partners **Between the Lines** and **Michigan Radio 91.7 FM**

ums
BE PRESENT

VIEW THE ENTIRE SEASON, PURCHASE TICKETS, AND MORE
UMS.ORG 734.764.2538
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN | ANN ARBOR

Susan Ayer
PHOTOGRAPHY

When you only have one chance to catch that special moment

SPECIALIZING IN:
BAR/BAT MITZVAHS
FAMILY PORTRAITS
CHILDREN
FAMILY CELEBRATIONS
DIGITAL IMAGING
BUSINESS RECEPTIONS

734.546.0426
susan@susanayerphotography.com
susanayerphotography.com

Make your next mailer, brochure, invitation or any design project a

Graphic Design

by Dennis Platte

734.483.9619
dennisplatte@gmail.com

Afternoon Delight
"It's Good For You . . . Anytime"
(734) 665-7513
afternoondelightcafe.com

A DOWNTOWN ANN ARBOR FAVORITE!
Daily Specials. Stop by today.
Serving breakfast and lunch.

Come see why the crowds gather.
Catering since 1978

Call for all your Springtime catering needs!

Mon–Sat. 8 a.m.–3 p.m. • Sun. 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
251 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor
(Corner of Fifth & Liberty)

ב"ה

Camp Gan Israel 2013

June 24 - August 9, 2013
9:00 AM - 3:45 PM
Extended hours: 8:00-9:00 AM & 3:45-6:00 PM
Location: Clonlara School 1289 Jewett Ave.

Open House
Sunday, March 17 • 2:00-3:30 pm
Location: Jump City - 2825 Boardwalk

Why Camp Gan Israel?
- Dedicated and loving counselors
- iCamp - Campers can customize their own experience from over 20 specialties (science, drama, music, drumming, gymnastics etc.)
- Professional sports program, including i9 sports
- Superb swim program
- Bi-Weekly field trips
- Fully Air-Conditioned facility
- Special Adventure Pioneer Camp for campers entering grades 5-8

A SUMMER OF FUN... A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES
Web: www.mycampganisrael.com · Phone: 734-995-3276 x5 · Email: director@mycampganisrael.com

Aunt Agatha's
NEW & USED
MYSTERY, DETECTION & TRUE CRIME BOOKS

Join Us at Aunt Agatha's

Sunday, April 7 at 2 PM
William Kent Krueger,
will visit us to talk about and sign his spectacular new novel,
ORDINARY GRACE

Sunday, April 14 at 2 PM
Brad Parks
will visit to discuss his latest novel,
THE GOOD COP

Complete details at
www.auntagathas.com

We can special order any book
We offer book club discounts
Parking validated

213 South Fourth Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734.769.1114

Programs this month at Beth Israel Congregation

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

A 25th Anniversary Gala: Celebrating Robert Robert Dobrusin

Sunday, April 28, 7 p.m.

Beth Israel will mark the 25th year that Rabbi Robert Dobrusin has served as its rabbi with a festive dinner event and fundraiser (catered by Amanda Fisher). Rabbi Robert Dobrusin has served as rabbi at Beth Israel since 1988. He received his B.A. in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University and an M.A. and rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. In 2010, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from JTS. Those interested in attending are asked to call the Beth Israel office for an invitation and RSVP form.

Noted for his wisdom, humor and warmth, Rabbi Dobrusin is involved in all areas of synagogue life and works with congregants of all ages and particularly enjoys teaching both from the pulpit and in the classroom. His essays and sermons have appeared in several anthologies and journals. Rabbi Dobrusin writes a blog at rabbirobdobrusinblog.wordpress.com.

Rabbi Dobrusin is an active supporter of many different Jewish organizations and currently serves as co-chair for T'ruah: A Rabbinic Call For Human Rights. He is a founding member of the Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County and has served on the board of directors for several other community agencies.

Born and raised in Boston, Rabbi Dobrusin is a passionate fan of the Boston Red Sox. In addition to baseball and other sports, Rabbi Dobrusin loves to travel with his family and loves to participate in his latest hobby, geocaching. Rabbi Dobrusin and his wife, Ellen, have two children, Avi and Mickie.

I Believe – A Shoah Requiem

Sunday, April 7, 4 p.m.

Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit

In observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) on Sunday, April 7, over 150 voices will ascend the stage of Detroit's acclaimed Orchestra Hall at the Max M. Fisher Music Center to present the world premiere of Daniel Gross' I Believe – A Shoah Requiem. Beth Israel Congregation is a co-sponsor of the event.

Scored for cantor, soloists, a cappella adult chorus and children's chorus, I Believe is a complete musical liturgy dedicated to the observance of Yom HaShoah. Featuring several traditional prayer texts such as the Mourner's Kaddish and the El Malei memorial prayer, I Believe also includes the poetry of Paul Celan and Primo Levi. Composed in 2009, Gross created I Believe as a response to the lack of musical liturgy for this highly significant and powerful day on the Jewish calendar. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Manhattan School of Music, The Juilliard School and The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Gross studied composition with George Crumb, James Primosch, Jay Riese and Bruce Adolphe. Gross is the cantor of Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills, and will serve as the cantor for the premiere of I Believe. As a performer, Gross has appeared with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Chamber Music Northwest, Pittsburgh Opera, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the National Symphony Orchestra, among many others. Dramatic soprano Lauren Skuce Gross has been distinguished for her versatility on both the opera and concert stages. She made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2001 with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and has performed on such other illustrious stages as the Kennedy Center, Alice Tully Hall and the Kravis Center in Palm Beach.

Baritone Neil Michaels has served Temple Israel as cantorial soloist for over ten years. He is a Toronto native and comes from an illustrious family of musicians and cantors and has performed leading roles in opera and musical theatre in the country's most recognizable houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, the Opera Company of Philadelphia, Connecticut Grand Opera, and the Santa Fe Opera. Michaels graduated from the Juilliard School, the Curtis Institute of Music. Conducting the combined choirs will be GRAMMY Award winning conductor Jerry Blackstone, director of choirs and chair of the conducting department at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance, Blackstone also conducts the Chamber Choir, teaches conducting at the graduate level, and administers a choral program of eleven choirs.

In addition to Beth Israel Congregation, co-sponsors include Adat Shalom Synagogue, AntiDefamation League Michigan Region, B'nai Israel Synagogue, Congregation Beth Ahm, Congregation Beth Shalom, Congregation Shaarey Zedek, Congregation Shaarey Zedek East Lansing, DavidHorodoker Organization, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Frankel Jewish Academy, Friends of Greater Detroit Chapter of Hadassah, Hidden Children/Child Survivors of Michigan, Hillel Day School of Metropolitan Detroit, Hillel of Metro Detroit, Holocaust Memorial Center.

The event is free although tickets are required. All seating is reserved. Tickets will be available through the DSO Box Office. Visit www.dso.org or call (313) 5765111.

Friday Night Lights

Friday, April 19, 6 p.m. Family Friendly Kabbalat Shabbat Service; 7 p.m. Friday Night Lights Dinner

Beth Israel offers a family friendly Shabbat dairy dinner for $7 per person, with no charge for children 3 and under. Families and individuals are encouraged to attend the full evening, which includes a service and all the traditional rituals of the Friday night meal. Because no payments can be accepted on Shabbat, there must be a pre-payment which will confirm the family's or individual's reservation.

Yom Hazikaron Ceremony

Sunday, April 14, 7–7:30 p.m.

The Community Wide Yom Hazikaron Ceremony for Greater Ann Arbor is hosted by Beth Israel Congregation. Yom Hazikaron, which is often translated as Israel Remembrance Day, is a time for Israelis and Jews the world over to take a moment to mourn the loss of Israeli soldiers and victims of terror. Coming as it does a day before Israeli Independence Day, this ceremony provides a very powerful emotional experience to everyone present. The date marks the more than 22,000 fallen soldiers and 3,700 victims of terror.

In the ceremony in Ann Arbor, volunteers from the community present memorial poems and songs (with keyboard accompaniment) in Hebrew and English. These poems (all the Hebrew is translated) are strikingly emotive and best exemplify the ongoing sacrifices experienced by soldiers and civilians in the State of Israel. In addition a power point display is screened which memorializes the lives of some of the fallen, including those who have died over the past year. Clergy from each of the Jewish congregations and University of Michigan Hillel are involved in the readings. Malli Holoshitz chairs the planning committee.

Tot Shabbat

Saturdays, April 13 and 27, 11:15 a.m.

Tot Shabbat is Beth Israel's Shabbat morning program for toddlers and preschoolers along with their families. Tot Shabbat features singing, dancing, stories, and prayers to celebrate Shabbat. The experienced leaders of Tot Shabbat are Peretz Hirshbein on the second Saturday and Jacob Kander on the fourth Saturday of the month. Peretz Hirshbein is the assistant director of the Early Childhood Center at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and the current vice president for education on the Beth Israel board of directors. Jacob Kander is Beth Israel's program director and father of a new baby.

Tot Shabbat meets at Beth Israel downstairs in room 15. Following services child size tables are set out for Tot Shabbat kids and their families are always invited to stay to enjoy a Kiddush lunch with the rest of the congregation.

Mini Minyan

Saturday, April 13, 11:15 a.m.

Mini Minyan is Beth Israel's Shabbat morning service on the second Saturday each month for all kids in Kindergarten through 2nd grade. Mini Minyan was designed in collaboration with many of the parents from Beth Israel and serves as a bridge for kids between Tot Shabbat and Kehillat Shabbat. It shares many of the favorite songs and stories from Tot Shabbat while beginning to teach prayers and incorporate activities similar to Kehillat Shabbat. The Mini Minyan service is led by program director Jacob Kander with special games and activities led by a team of parent volunteers. All parents are welcome to join in this service along with their children. Mini Minyan meets at Beth Israel on the second Saturday of the month downstairs in room 16.

Kehillat Shabbat

Saturday, April 13, 11 a.m.

Kehillat Shabbat is Beth Israel's Shabbat morning service for kids in 3rd-5th grade. The program is designed for kids to have a great Shabbat experience, including a kid-friendly service along with games and other activities each month to help teach about holidays and Jewish values while building a stronger community for the kids in a fun way. Gabe Pachter, a senior at the University of Michigan, facilitates a service that is filled with student participation in the prayers, interactive discussions, and always ends with a special snack. Kehillat Shabbat is a great time once a month for elementary school students to celebrate Shabbat, to schmooze, and to learn together. Kehillat Shabbat meets at Beth Israel on the second Saturday of the month downstairs in room 12. ■

AARC Shabbat offerings

Aura Ahuvia, special to the WJN

Learner's Service, April 6

Why do the psalms occupy so prevalent a role in Jewish liturgy, no matter whether the service is for Shabbat, a holiday, Shiva minyan or life-cycle celebration? What is it about these ancient poems, which has inspired poetry, songs, and study? This topic will be explored in depth at the Learner's Service on April 6, offered by the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation, from 10 a.m.–noon at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. This class will cover psalms with our heads and our hearts, examining their history and literary hallmarks, and also experimenting with how they land within our own hearts.

On May 4, the AARC's Learner's Service examines the Prophets: Who they were, their cultural contexts, their respective roles in both our liturgy and our sense of justice even to today

The AARC's Learner's Services are a 10-part series running all year long. The final Learner's Service will take place June 1. For more information, contact Rabbinic Student Intern Aura Ahuvia, Aura613@gmail.com, or call 975-9045.

Shabbat Morning Monthly Service, April 20

How do Jews understand holiness in the Torah? How do Jews understand holiness today? The two parashiot featured during the April 20 service, Acharei Mot and Kedoshim, raise these questions. Join the discussion during services on April 20, from 10 a.m. – 12:00 noon at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County, an informal, highly musical service featuring lengthy discussion of the Torah portion, offered by the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation. All members of the community are welcome. For more information, contact ;;;Rabbinic Student Intern Aura Ahuvia, Aura613@gmail.com, or call 975-9045.

Kabbalat Shabbat Monthly Service, April 26

The AARC offers the chance to welcome Shabbat through guitar-led music, ranging from traditional congregational melodies to beloved Jewish summer camp songs on the fourth Friday of every month, led by Rabbinic Student Intern Aura Ahuvia. Services run from 6:15 – 7:30 p.m., and are followed by a vegetarian /dairy potluck dinner. Services are held at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. For more information, contact the AARC by website, www.aarecon.org, via e-mail, by writing to info@aarecon.org, or by calling 445-1910.

Miriam Alexander and Sara Norich recipients of 2013 Susan L. Lichter Scholarships

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

Ann Arbor teens Miriam Alexander and Sara Norich are the recipients of the 2013 Susan L. Lichter Memorial Endowed Israel Scholarship Fund. Paul and Carolyn Lichter created the fund to honor the memory of their daughter, Susan Lichter z"l, and over 170 relatives, friends and community members contributed to the fund. The proceeds provide two scholarships annually for Ann Arbor area high school students to participate in peer group Israel experiences such as semester, summer or gap year programs.

Alexander is a senior at Pioneer High School and will be participating in Young Judaea's gap year program Year Course. She has been involved in Young Judaea (YJ) since the third grade and credits YJ, along with her grandmother, a Holocaust survivor, for fostering her Jewish identity. My grandmother "taught me to value my heritage, Israel and my relationship with other Jews," said Alexander. "My relationships with YJ peers… have helped me build a connection to the Jewish people." She is looking forward to Year Course as a year of maturation and immersion in Israeli culture. "I appreciate the Lichter family's support of Jewish youth in Ann Arbor who wish to participate in gap-year programs to Israel."

Norich, a junior at Skyline High School, will be participating in Young Judaea's Machon, a summer program for teens who've been involved in YJ. Also a long time attendee at Young Judaea's summer camps, she has dreamed of going on Machon for years. In addition to touring Israel, Norich looks forward to the volunteer opportunities and education about Israeli culture, politics and nature - and doing all this with her friends. "I can't think of anything better than seeing new places in Israel with the friends I made at camp," said Norich. "I can't wait to come back and share with others all the great things I will see and do."

Four applicants submitted essays in which they described their goals for visiting Israel and how their program would help them meet these goals. A scholarship committee, chaired by Laurie Lichter and including Judie Lax, Ami Rosenthal, and University of Michigan student Jessica Curhan had the difficult task of reading the essays and determining which of the very worthy applicants would receive the scholarship. All essays were submitted blind; the committee members received no identifying information about the applicants other than what was in the essays. "As usual, we had some strong applicants and enjoyed getting to know them via their essays," said Laurie. "The two awardees clearly had strong ideas about what they wanted to get out of their trips, and we're pleased to be able to help them achieve their goals."

The Lichters are pleased their efforts are bearing fruit. "We are so happy to be able to make a difference by helping these two outstanding teens reach their dreams of travelling to Israel," said Carolyn. "We thank the committee for the excellent job they did in reviewing the applications. We know that it must have been difficult for them to make a decision, and we look forward to helping more young people in the years to come." ■

Year Course offers chance to experience rich Israeli culture

By Miriam Alexander

My motivation and goals for visiting Israel have much to do with my strong connection to the Jewish youth movement, Young Judaea (YJ). YJ is peer-led and focuses on Jewish identity, pluralism, and social action. I am planning to go on the nine-month Year Course program sponsored by YJ.

Miriam Alexander

The Year Course educational curriculum will help me improve my Hebrew skills and give me a better foundation in Jewish history. I will travel extensively and become better acquainted with many areas that are important and yet not usually included on standard tourist itineraries.

Beyond the focus on education and travel, YJ also includes a focus on social action. I feel that I want to give back to Israel as well as learn about Israel. I am looking forward to volunteering with at-risk or disabled groups, specifically children, doing service work (such as assisting staff at Masada), and providing support for the poor and needy (such as at a soup kitchen).

The Year Course experience also includes exposure to religious pluralism in Israel. Because YJ is tolerant of a range of Judaic observance, I will be living with Year Course participants with different backgrounds of observance. In addition, my experience in Israel will give me exposure to a range of religious practices, from the Chassidim in Jerusalem to secular kibbutzim.

Year Course also fosters independence and the opportunity to live among Israelis in order to better understand Israeli culture. We will be placed in three different cities in order to fully immerse ourselves into the local lifestyle as opposed to continually touring the country. I will be placed in a situation where I will have to learn how to budget and deal with daily expenses, notably food, like many young adults living on their own for the first time. The difference here is that I will have to navigate a different culture, including use of a foreign currency, supermarkets with products in a different language, and an unfamiliar transportation system.

This is not my first time living in or visiting Israel. I spent my first grade year living in Jerusalem during my father's sabbatical. I only remember parts of the experience and was not able to fully appreciate my time there. I would like to now engage Israel on a more adult and intellectual level. During this past summer on the YJ Machon Israel program, we spent most of our time traveling and I only got a taste of what I will be experiencing next year. I am eager to expand my connection to Israel for the long-term.

There are many aspects of Israel I find attractive; particularly the culture and religion. Sometimes I feel disconnected from American culture because its focus is strongly Christian or secular, and seems devoid of Jewish influence. In Israel, the language, food, calendar and overall lifestyle are deeply rooted in Judaism. The land of Israel is rich in Jewish history, all the way back to biblical times. I do not feel as strong a connection to America, where the history only dates back a few hundred years and has less of a personal impact on me.

This is a critical time in my development as an adult and Jew, having completed high school and not yet started college. This is the only time in the next few years that I will truly be at a break in my education. To reach the full potential of a year in Israel I believe it is crucial not to be tied down by other obligations. I also hope this next year will be a year of maturing. I intend to enter college better mentally prepared and use this year to grow in a number of ways that I feel will be positive.

My family has a strong connection with YJ and Year Course. My commitment to YJ is inspired by my late-grandmother. As a Holocaust survivor, she taught me to value my heritage, a bond with Israel, and my relationship with other Jews. Consequently, my relationships with YJ peers at summer camp, Camp Young Judaea in Wisconsin and Tel Yehudah in New York, helped me build a connection to the Jewish people. My sister went on Year Course, and the program had such an impact on her that she eventually made aliyah. A number of family friends have remarked how Year Course was critical in their development and how they made life-long friends and connections.

I feel that I would be a very worthy candidate for the Lichter scholarship because of my long-term personal and family commitment to Israel and my plans to learn about and immerse myself in Israeli culture. I look forward to returning as an entering freshman at the University of Michigan and serving as an advocate for Israel. ■

Dreams of participating on Young Judaea Machon program

By Sara Norich

This summer I plan to have one of the best and most memorable experiences of my life. I would like to go on the Young Judaea Machon summer program. Having heard about this trip since my first year attending Camp Young Judaea Midwest in 2007, I have dreamed of going on this amazing program. The first time I came home from camp, I told everyone that it was my dream to spend time in Israel with this group of kids. At that time, I thought it was all about having a great time, but now I know that it's also about strengthening my commitment to Israel and learning to have a realistic sense of life there. (And still having a great time!)

Sarah Norich

I was two and a half when I took my first trip to Israel with my mother. I have been back several times since then and each time I fall in love all over again with the culture, traditions, cities, and people. I also really love the food. I have never been to Israel on a group trip before and never traveled with friends. Whenever I've gone, it has been for short periods of time when my mother was teaching or going to conferences, or when we had a family wedding. I spent time in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, but not so much in other places that I would also like to see. I would like to go with my peers so that I can experience all the many sides side of Israel.

I have a very strong Jewish identity that I have been able to sustain over the years, in large part because of my experiences at Young Judaea Midwest and then at Tel Yehudah. I love observing the Jewish holidays and learning Hebrew. One of the most memorable events of my life was my bat mitzvah, when family and friends came to help me celebrate and when I became an adult Jew. I took it very seriously but I also enjoyed it a lot. That's the kind of experience I hope to have this summer. At the center of my Jewish identity has been a love of and concern for the State of Israel. I don't really know where it came from. Maybe it was the influence of my family, or my school and synagogue. Maybe it was just the fun of traveling. Whatever it was, it has stuck with me.

If there was one thing I could do for Israel it would be to help bring about peace. I guess that's what everyone says but it's still the truth. I don't know if this trip will show me ways of doing that, but I know that it will let me see many different sides of Israel and its citizens. The Machon program is perfect for that. It will let me meet Israelis and people my age from around the U.S. and from different countries. It includes volunteer opportunities, education about the culture and politics and nature. I'll be able to learn more Hebrew. Of course, I'll also have great experiences and lots of fun. On Machon, we develop leadership skills and plan Shabbat activities. I can't wait to visit an army base or to snorkel or take hikes and see more of the country. Maybe then I will have a better understanding of the many different parts that make up Israel.

When I've been in the country in the past, I have felt stress-free, as if I have no problems. I don't really know why that is since everyone says that Israeli life is full of stress, but somehow I never feel it personally. Maybe that's because I'm not in school when I'm there, and I'm on vacation. But it's also because I feel devoted to the country and it just makes me happy and peaceful to be there. I've never spent enough time in Israel to know if this feeling lasts, but I think and hope it will. I've also never been there on my own and, even though I won't be traveling with family, I know that I won't be alone. Hanging out with kids my own age and with similar interests will make the experience even more meaningful. After a stressful junior year of high school, it would be especially great to relax and have new experiences with them.

I have always liked to travel and see new places. I especially look forward to seeing new places this summer in Israel. I can't think of anything better than seeing them with the friends I made at camp. Some of my best memories are of those weeks at camp and of the cool things we did and the talks we had. I've made great friends at Young Judaea and Tel Yehudah and some of those friends are also planning to go on this trip. I really want to have these experiences with them and with the new friends I'll make. I want to know first-hand the many cultures that make up Israel, and the different communities. I don't think I can really describe to you what my feelings are about this trip and about Israel. It has always been my dream to be there and I can't wait to come back and tell about all the great things I will see and do. ■

English lessons become so much more

By Yasaf Warshai

A chorus of cheers greeted us as we walked into the classroom, and a flurry of hands was raised towards the teacher. This was the normal reaction to us coming to school, which we had been doing three times a week for the past two months. I was working with three other members of my group. The four of us lived together with 20 other 18-year-olds in a house in the town of Karmiel, Israel, just a short cab ride away from the school where my *tzevet* (staff) was assigned. The 23 of us had been in Israel for six months already on Habonim's Workshop program, spending our days learning and living together, as well as engaging with the Israeli society. This particular sixth grade class was one of five classes at the elementary school to which my *tzevet* was assigned.

The English teacher, Yifat, selected a group of ten students who had finished their work for the day to join us out in the hallway. We made a circle of chairs and did a quick round of names, more for our benefit than theirs. Most of them remembered us but it was hard to keep track of all the different classes we worked with.

As I introduced the day's activity, I glanced nervously at my tzevet. We had planned this activity the night before, after hearing a couple of disturbing remarks from the kids in past weeks at the school. First we passed out blank paper to all of the children and told them their assignment. After dividing the paper into three sections, they were to draw whatever popped into their head when they heard the words "Israeli," "American" and "Arab." For five minutes we walked around them as they worked, answering questions and shushing talkers. Finally we all reconvened as a group, and asked them individually what they had drawn.

Most of the "Israelis" that had been sketched were wearing sandals, shorts and T-shirts. A few had army uniforms on, and a couple even had peyos. The "Americans" mostly had baseball caps and Nike shoes or looked like characters off of "Jersey Shore." The most unsettling part was the "Arab" sketches, as the vast majority were either holding a bomb or weapon of some kind or wearing a turban.

Yasaf with the students in an Israeli classroom

After all of the students had explained their drawings, we continued with our planned discussion questions. When asked whether they identified as Israeli, all of them raised their hands. We asked whether any of them had yet served in the Army, and they all laughed as they told us that they were too young. Pretending to realize our mistake, we asked them to identify anyone in the circle who wore tzitzit or peyos. Looking around, they once again responded that no one in the circle was wearing such things, and a few of them seemed to start to understand our point.

Next we moved on to the Americans they had drawn. I explained that although I am an American, I don't wear a baseball cap, and I'm certainly not a TV star. There were nods of understanding from the group, and a bit of apprehension from us as we approached the real goal of the activity. Before moving on, we asked for any ideas about how what we had said could relate to the Arabs that they had sketched. A few of them understood, and one girl responded that perhaps what they had drawn wasn't true of all Arabs. We explained that other people on our program were running exactly the same types of activities as us in the nearby Arab villages, and that the students there were actually very similar to them. They also enjoyed playing soccer and going to school and their schools looked very similar, and they were not violent, but normal people trying to live their lives. A few of the kids had a hard time believing it, and looked as though they had never even considered the idea of Arab children.

Our conversation turned to where such false ideas came from. Aside from a few who had been to the US, most of their ideas about Americans came from television and other media. Even fewer of them had been inside of Arab villages, or had much experience with Arab Israelis, aside from in passing. Throughout the discussion a few suspicious faces were present, but overall a large portion of this sixth grade group seemed to be thinking hard and pondering what we were saying. We tried to stress the importance of not believing everything that you see on television, and being aware of how manipulated certain images and portrayals of people can be. In order to tie our lesson into English, we explained the word stereotype. We gave examples of stereotypes, and stressed the fact that the same way that not all Americans wear baseball caps, one small group doesn't represent an entire people.

Yasaf Warshai

We ran that activity for all five classes that day, and most of the reactions were very similar. As we exited the school that day, one boy from that first sixth grade class came up to me and exclaimed that he had never thought of Arabs in that way, and that he was happy that we had run such an activity. We all smiled to ourselves as we thanked him and told him we would see him next week.

This story is obviously my own personal experience, and the ideas that these kids had by no means represent all of Israeli society. However, in my opinion, it says something important about the way that we perceive others and often put people into boxes without actually getting to know them. What happened that day is a great example of the insights I gained, and was able to share, as a result of participating in the Habonim Dror Workshop gap year program. The same lesson we taught these children was one that we were busy learning ourselves. At the start of the year, I knew only a handful of the people I was living with, and made a lot of assumptions about others' personalities. By working together to educate the youth around us, while simultaneously learning similar lessons through programs run for us multiple times weekly, I got to know this group of twenty-three people on an incredibly close and personal level. Over the course of Workshop, I learned how to take first impressions and prior knowledge of a person's background and use them to engage rather than make assumptions. Through my work with Jewish and Arab Israeli youth, I passed on those same lessons to the next generation. ■

Yasaf Warshai is a 2011 Recipient of the Susan L. Lichter Memorial Israel Scholarship, and he participated in Habonim Dror Workshop in 2011-2012. He is a first year Arts & Humanities student at Michigan State University.

Visit to Nahalal brings new friendships

By Abigail Simon

Last month, I was lucky enough to take part in the Ann Arbor-Nahalal student exchange. As part of this exchange, ninth grade students from around Ann Arbor go to Nahalal, a unique moshav in northern Israel for about 10 days, and then the following fall, the ninth graders from Nahalal come here. Going into the trip, I wasn't quite sure what to expect; I read about Nahalal and looked at pictures of past delegations, but didn't really know what the trip would be like for me. Arriving there and getting off the bus, I felt somewhat awkward at first with a group of Ann Arbor kids that I didn't know that well and an even more foreign group of Israeli kids. Everything changed after that for the better. By the next day, we had already become friends and mixed with the Israelis so well.

From left: Maya Burgard, Abby Simon, Aiya Bernstein and Yovel Manor in the old city of Jerusalem

In the first few days in Israel, we went to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. For the day we spent in Jerusalem, we went to the IDF cemetery, the old city where we went to the Western Wall and had an underground tour, and Ben Yehuda Street. In Tel Aviv we went to Independence Hall

Continued on page 18

An amazing way to experience Israel

By Miriam Hamermesh

Imagine yourself stepping off a plane in a foreign country. The sun is bright and the sky is a resplendent shade of blue, a welcome change from the omnipresent gray of Ann Arbor. People surround you; some speaking in English, others speaking in rapid, foreign tongues you can only pick up pieces of. When you get into the airport, you shuffle over to join the group of 21 other kids your age and two adults doing their best to organize everyone. Together, you all walk to baggage claim. When you get there, there are three more teenagers waving at you. The only difference is that these ones are Israeli. That was my first glimpse of the Israel side of the delegation that I would soon come to know and love.

Miriam Hamermesh (left) and Abigail Hirshbein enjoy herbal tea in the meadow

The Ann Arbor-Nahalal partnership has touched me in many ways. I have many friends who have gone on the same trip when they were in ninth grade. My brother went on the trip when he was fourteen and had an amazing time. Earlier this year when the tenth grade delegation came to America, one of the adult chaperones stayed in my house. All of these

Continued on page 23

Familiar faces return to lead JCC's Camp Raanana

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor is excited to bring back some familiar faces to Camp Raanana. Children will not only have the opportunity to spend the summer with their camp friends from year's past, but they will find many staff that will be returning for this year's camp season.

Camp Raanana's number one priority is to oversee a safe and healthy program. Staff is trained extensively to ensure the physical and emotional safety of campers. Campers will be encouraged to explore and have new experiences while at camp. Camp Raanana allows a child to simply "be a kid" and enjoy everything camp has to offer, including swimming, boating, nature exploration, orienteering, archery, Red Cross certified swim lessons, arts & crafts, music, field trips and more.

Camp director

Shannon Link will return to Camp Raanana to serve as this year's camp director. Link acted as Camp Raanana's assistant camp director in summer 2012, and as Raanana's interim camp director during the summer of 2011. She is excited to return to camp and see the many familiar families with whom she has spent the past several summers.

Link worked in the JCC's Early Childhood Center as a lead teacher for six years before returning to school to pursue her master's degree in elementary education at the University of Michigan. While earning her teaching certificate and master's degree, she both interned and taught at

Northside Elementary, Ann Arbor Open, High Point School, Tappan Middle School, and Thurston Elementary. Since completing her master's degree in December 2010, Link has served as the childcare supervisor for the before- and after-school programs at Byrant Elementary. During the 2012–2013 school year, she served as a permanent substitute teacher for the East Arbor Charter Academy in Ypsilanti.

Waterfront director

Kim Braun is returning as Camp Raanana's waterfront director. During the school year, Braun is the energetic and enthusiastic physical education teacher for the JCC and Hebrew Day School. She also teaches the ECC Swim with Kim class and sports-themed enrichment classes during the school year. She has been part of the JCC family since 1999 and enjoys working with her current and former students at Camp Raanana.

Braun teaches children to enjoy and appreciate the water. Braun has over 20 years of experience as an American Red Cross certified lifeguard, Water Safety Instructor, and CPR and lifeguard instructor.

JCC programs director

Noreen De Young is the JCC's program director. She oversees the Early Childhood Center, Youth department and Family programs. She has been working with the children and families at the JCC for over 25 years, first as a pre-school teacher, then as Early Childhood director. She now oversees all of the JCC's programs for children and family and looks forward to spending time with campers and staff this summer.

JCC executive director

JCC Executive Director Jeff Baden (known to many as "Magic Jeff"), brings over 30 years of camp experience to the program. He has run JCC day camps in Cincinnati and Indianapolis, as well as Camp Livingston, a regional Jewish overnight camp, based out of the Cincinnati JCC. Baden looks forward to bringing his vast knowledge of camping, song leading and "magic" to both Camp Keshet and Camp Raanana this year.

Camp Raanana will take place June 24–August 16 at Cedar Lake, in Chelsea (part of the Waterloo Recreation Area), a short bus ride from the JCC. Camp is divided into eight, one-week camp sessions, which include swim lessons, all camp activities and specialties. Three sessions include a Thursday overnight option with dinner and campfire activities. This year's camp season also includes two weeks of Summer Fun Days at the JCC (June 17–21 and August 19–23), where campers will participate in a variety of field trips and activities. ■

For more information on Camp Raanana or to register for camp, contact the JCC at campdirector@jccfed.org, call 971-0990 or visit www.jccannarbor.org.

Our team of specialists creates
mortgage solutions.

Denise McPherson-Pratt
Vice President
734.214.3733
NMLS# 746541

Scott Lunn
Mortgage Originator
810.522.1903
NMLS# 532148

David H. Kersch
President
734.214.3796
NMLS# 746536

Jeffrey Miller
Mortgage Originator
734.214.3721
NMLS# 133993

Betsy Cavanaugh
Vice President
734.214.3740
NMLS# 746518

Stephen Anderson
Vice President
734.214.5897
NMLS# 161776

Academic Fair—making learning visible

Hadar Dohn and Jennifer Rosenberg, special to the WJN

Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor celebrates learning in the cold month of February The Academic Fair brings students, families, and alumni together to showcase and applaud the learning that has taken place during the year. It is an event that allows students to both learn from one another and serve as teachers for others.

The school has been working on making thinking visible, delving into an exploration of articulation and explanations of processes. Being able to speak about the process or their thinking and the resulting understanding is a 21st century skill with life-long benefits. The Academic Fair puts students in the driver's seat, making them responsible for describing the learning that took place on the journey toward the finished product.

Parents were provided with questions specific to their child's grade that helped make connections between the projects on display and the common core mathematical practices. These questions served as conversation starters to get the children telling about their thinking and learning. "It was fun to teach my parents about penguins", said Lily from kindergarten. Maya added, "I was proud of myself because I taught my mommy and daddy that my penguin has a strap under its chin—that's why it's called the chinstrap penguin."

"I liked creating my dinosaur. I knew what characteristics to include because I knew what the name meant," said second grader Noah.

The fourth graders were busy displaying and presenting their compound machines. In their role as teacher, the students were both exhilarated and challenged. "I found it was better to have a shorter elevator speech because it got tiring to say it over and over," said Yael. Samuel said, "Building the machines was sometimes hard - you had to fix them and sometimes you got really annoyed. But it all paid off at the fair and was really worth it!" Ari spoke about perseverance, "In order to make it work I had to test it a lot and keep on trying." Gracie commented on presenting while there was so much going on in the same room, "I learned that you really need to draw people's attention so you have to make something you think others would want to see."

Mat and Noah: A second grader and his parent explore Hebrew concepts.

Compound Machine: Planks, ramps and pulleys - a fourth grader presents his finished compound machine.

Noam: Technology is integrated into second grade learning.

The excitement permeated the school as students shared their work with their schoolmates and guests. Second grader Halle was happy to share "I liked that we got to display our art work because we worked really hard on it and I liked telling how I did it." When kindergartener Yahli explained that one highlight was "Seeing my teenager friend, Arianne," it underscored the important role our alumni continue to play at HDS.

Nothing says more than the comments made by the fifth graders, HDS's most veteran students. "When people asked me questions, it gave me good ideas on what kinds of questions I could ask other people," said Sophia. "At first I had to think really hard about how to answer the questions people asked but after a while I got more comfortable and confident in my answers," said Dana. Jesse summed it up, "I liked seeing the work in other classes and wish I got to see more. My first grade brother was very excited to tell me about his work, just like I was excited to tell others about my work." ■

To learn more about Hebrew Day School or to schedule a tour, call 971-4633 or email office@hdsaa.org.

Our team is United with one purpose in mind: to find a mortgage solution that's perfect for you. We know Michigan's neighborhoods and its people. And we love what we do. We're local lenders with the experience, relationships and flexibility you need. Call us today to get the conversation going. Let's get those keys in your hands. United Bank & Trust. Solutions—together.

Charles E. Chapell
Vice President
734.214.2728
NMLS# 746519

Ramona Meadows
Vice President
734.944.3981
NMLS# 164901

UNITED BANK & TRUST
Solutions Together

ubat.com

888.423.8373 | 2723 S. State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Member FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Performing arts at HDS and beyond

Emily Eisbruch, special to the WJN

Kids' Klezmer music, violin concertos, "Gangnam" (Korean hip-hop inspired) dancing, Hebrew songs, a contemporary dance mix, singing and strumming guitar to the Beatles…. where do all these things come together? Why, of course, at the recent annual Hebrew Day School Talent Show for the Hebrew month of Adar. "Seeing the variety and richness of the performing arts that our kids engage in was truly exciting," commented Hadar Dohn, head of school. "The performances were entertaining and courageous, and demonstrated a wide array of creative talents."

PHOTO CREDIT-AMNON STEINER

Back (left to right) Adam Kahana, Hava Kaplan, Abigail Hirshbein, Oren Steiner
Front (left to right) Ethan Steiner, Dana Steiner

Hebrew Day School students get lots of performance experiences throughout the year, from the monthly Rosh Chodesh (new month) celebrations to the Hanukkah music festival and graduation play, and they feel quite comfortable in front of an audience. During the Rosh Chodesh celebrations, the gansters (kindergarteners) perform a song each time, and the different classes take turns performing plays. The second grade, led by veteran teacher Aron Kaufman, is also famous for putting on an annual Passover play. In last year's play, the children sang, acted, danced and even changed roles.

"I loved getting to be Moses in one performance and Pharaoh in another," said Ethan Steiner, now a third-grader. This experience at Hebrew Day School makes the children confident performers who are well positioned to participate in other wonderful theater opportunities offered by the Ann Arbor Public Schools and the wider community.

As an example of the HDS students and alumni participating in the arts around Ann Arbor—now rehearsing at Pioneer High School is "Shrek The Musical!" This performance will feature Hebrew Day School alumni, including Mickie Dobrusin, Adam Kahana, Abigail Hirshbein, Hava Kaplan and Oren Steiner and two current Hebrew Day School Students, Dana Steiner and Ethan Steiner, who will be playing Young Fiona and Young Shrek.

In addition to getting involved with the Ann Arbor's high school theater scene, many HDS alumni have also played key roles in productions for Young People's Theater and elsewhere. HDS alumni and students who will be participating in an upcoming production of "The Little Mermaid" include Oren, Dana and Ethan Steiner, Lily and Charley Rosenberg, and Oreen Morag. ■

"Shrek The Musical!" will be performed at Pioneer High School's Schreiber Auditorium on April 27-28 and May 3-5. YPT's "The Little Mermaid" will be performed May 31-June 2, at the Power Center for the Performing Arts. For more information about Shrek go to http://ptguild2.aaps.k12.mi.us and for more information about the Little Mermaid go to http://youngpeoplestheater.com.

Abigail, continued from page 15

to see where Israel became a country and did an Amazing Race type scavenger hunt taking us all across downtown Tel Aviv through Shuk HaCarmel and ending near the beach to watch the sunset.

Days that we spent closer to Nahalal were equally fun. All of us enjoyed going to the primary and high schools to celebrate Purim (party at 9 am!), making masks with children in a nearby city, going on picnics, and so much more! Days were planned and fun, but some of the best times were at night playing soccer with the Israeli teens or teaching them American football. Another great memory is the last night when we all had a sleepover at the Machlevah (an old dairy that is now a gathering spot to hang out) and made a music video for the "Harlem Shake."

The last day there, we went to the Ann Arbor-Nahalal Park and planted trees, symbolizing the connection between these two amazing communities. I think we all agree how fast the trip went—way too fast—but now we can look forward to all of our great friends coming here in the fall. ■

Abby (center) and her group finish planting a tree at the Ann Arbor/Nahalal Park

With Chavez gone, Venezuelan Jews look warily to future

By Gil Shefler

CARACAS, Venezuela (JTA)—The eyes of a dead man stare at visitors passing through immigration at Simon Bolivar International Airport. They follow drivers making the trek along the tortuous four-lane highway through a mountain range leading to town. And they reappear at public spaces throughout this city.

It's easy to be spooked by the ubiquitous image of Hugo Chavez, the larger-than-life leftist leader who died last week from an unspecified form of cancer. But in Venezuela, it has been the reality since he came to power in 1999.

"It never used to be this way with presidents before him," said David Bittan, the owner of a taxi company whose cousin of the same name is the president of the Venezuelan Jewish umbrella group CAIV. "They started putting up these posters everywhere after he was first elected. It's in line with Communist Party propaganda."

With Chavez gone, this divided nation finds itself at a crossroads. Will Nicolas Maduro, Chavez's handpicked successor, carry on "until victory," as the posters of his political patron promise? Or might he chart a new path, taking a more conciliatory approach to relations with the United States and with the business community?

Or could opposition leader Henrique Capriles Radonski, the Catholic grandson of Holocaust survivors, surprise everyone by winning the presidential election set for April 14? For members of Venezuela's dwindling Jewish community, the political uncertainty is particularly unnerving. During Chavez's 14 years in power, their numbers have dropped from 25,000 to about 9,000 today, driven abroad by economic instability, anti-Semitism in state-owned media and rampant crime that made Caracas a serious contender for murder capital of the world.

"We have great institutions, we have a great school, we have a wonderful Hebraica," said Efraim Lapscher, the vice president of CAIV, referring to the sprawling community center that is the heart of Jewish life here. "We, our fathers and our grandfathers, built this with a lot of sweat, ideology and hard work. And it's painful for us to see them slowly emptying out."

Jewish life in Caracas revolves around the Hebraica, the compound at the foot of the Avila Mountain that is also home to the Jewish school and a growing number of communal institutions. Past the heavily guarded gate and high walls is the lush campus with a pool, soccer pitch, tennis courts, gym, food court—even a bank. On a warm day, children gambol by the pool while their parents lay on deck chairs.

"It's a beautiful prison," said a representative of an international Jewish organization based in Caracas. "Members of the community live their entire lives there without leaving because of fear of crime outside. Children are so used to be being cooped up that when they visit Israel, they call their parents and say, 'Guess what, I'm on a bus!' That's an exciting experience for them."

The sense of siege hinders the willingness of Venezuelan Jews to publicly criticize their government, though there is little love lost for the president who severed diplomatic ties with Israel while embracing Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Lapscher talks about the community's post-Chavez prospects with deliberate caution so as not to be construed as taking sides.

"Sometime in the near future we'll have elections and we can change the government. Or the same government will stay but we will have the same issues," he said. "We will try to give the best Jewish life possible and combat anti-Semitism if it comes from the government, its supporters or from the outside."

Asked about the tense political situation, most Venezuelan Jews direct questions to community leaders, fearing unwelcome repercussions. An exception is Sammy Eppel, a Jewish columnist who writes for the opposition paper El Nacional. Eppel has paid a heavy price for his outspoken critique of Chavismo, Chavez's particular brand of socialism.

Eppel says government interference led him to shut down a call center he operated and that officials have tried unsuccessfully to isolate him from the community leadership. But still he blames the Chavez government for economic policies that have led to periodic shortages of food staples, frequent devaluations of the bolivar fuerte and a marked drop in oil output.

"The government that takes over is going to have a difficult situation," he said. "Politics you can manipulate, but the economy is a science. It's very hard to manipulate the economy. And when hard times come, they will come for everybody. And unfortunately, those hard times might hit the Jewish community also."

If such predictions come to pass, it may send even more Venezuelan Jews to places such as Florida, the destination of choice for Jewish expats. Pynchas Brener, the chief rabbi of Venezuela for 44 years and friends with all its presidents "except this one," is one of many who now call the Miami area home.

"I could have stayed on for three more years, but there is tremendous personal insecurity," Brener said. "Besides, I have eight of my nine grandchildren here."

Brener sees two possible paths for the country: It could become like Cuba, with the Jewish community losing most of its verve and viability, or Chavismo might be defeated at the ballot box. Of the two, he sees the latter as more likely. "Even though the government has won a few elections—although not fairly because they used government resources—I still see half the population or close to half the population resisting, so I don't think it will turn into Cuba," he said. "I don't think the government will be able to do whatever they want."

Despite the uncertainty, some glimmers of hope are visible.

On Sunday, a new synagogue, Tiferet Israel Este, will be inaugurated in Los Palos Grandes, an affluent Caracas neighborhood that is home to a sizable Jewish community. The synagogue offers worshipers a safer alternative to an older temple in a formerly Jewish part of town now considered dangerous.

"As Kohelet said, there is a time for everything," said Isaac Cohen, who replaced Brener as chief rabbi. "[The new synagogue] shows people seek religion in their lives, and we have freedom of religion here.

"It pains us, it hurts us that there is no Israeli ambassador or embassy, but we hope that day will come and ties will be renewed. When will it happen? Nobody but God knows." ■

As world's largest exporter of drones, Israel looks to transform battlefield

By Ben Sales

AIRPORT CITY, Israel (JTA)—An Israeli soldier sits in an office chair in an air-conditioned metal chamber staring at two screens side by side. One shows a map with a moving dot. The other displays a video feed. Next to the soldier are three more identical stations.

The soldier isn't an air traffic controller but a pilot, and his aircraft is called an unmanned aerial system, more commonly known as a drone.

Welcome to the next generation of the Israeli Air Force.

Israel long has relied on superior air capability to maintain a military edge in the Middle East, and its pilots are among the most respected soldiers in the county.

Now Israel's drone industry is booming, and experts predict that within decades, manned flight largely will be a thing of the past – especially in risky combat missions. During Israel's Pillar of Defense operation in Gaza last year, Israeli drones reportedly played a key role on the battlefield.

"Already today we see that the technology can work faster and better than our five senses, which are limited," Tzvi Kalron, a marketing manager for Israel Aerospace Industries told JTA in an interview during a recent tour of an Israeli drone facility. "When you take away the human factor in battle and send tools that know how to do it better, it's easier."

With two large drone manufacturers—Israel Aerospace Industries, a government company, and Elbit Systems—Israel is the world's second-largest producer of drones, behind the United States, and the world's largest exporter of drones.

IAI began manufacturing drones in 1974, employs 1,000 people in its drone division and sells about $400 million worth of drones per year. The company exports to 49 countries, including NATO allies fighting in Afghanistan, such as Canada and Australia. The client list also reportedly includes some U.S. rivals, such as Russia, and developing countries like Nigeria.

About one-fifth of IAI's drones stay in Israel. They range from the 5-ton Heron TP, which can fly as high as 45,000 feet and stay in the air for 52 hours, to the handheld Mosquito micro-drone, which weighs less than a pound and travels nearly a mile. The Heron looks like an oversized, gray remote-control airplane, with a radar sticking out of its top and, of course, no space for a pilot.

Along with Air Force drones, the Israel Defense Forces plans to incorporate drones in infantry units. Soldiers may carry a disassembled mini-drone in two backpacks and, when patrolling cities, assemble the drone, launch it by slingshot and monitor it by remote control. The Ghost, as this drone is known, weighs nine pounds and can help the unit eliminate blind spots and, according to IDF spokesman Eytan Buchman, overcome the "fog of war."

"You can't see around the corner, you don't know what's on the other side of the hill," Buchman said. "It's definitely helpful when you're facing guerrilla opponents and rely heavily on the element of surprise."

He added that drones help save civilian lives by identifying civilians near a bomb's target and helping reroute the bomb to avoid them.

The Ghost's only protruding feature is its most expensive part: a small, round camera that sticks out of the drone's underbelly. To protect the camera, the Ghost flips upside-down before it lands.

Kalron said IAI hopes to expand its drone options in the coming years, developing stealth drones that are harder to see and hear, and working on a micro-drone with wings that flap like a butterfly—a concept known as biomimicry. IAI also is expanding drones' civilian uses, like surveillance of large crowds and stadiums.

IAI's drones conduct surveillance, take photographs, and record audio and video, according to Kalron. He would not discuss the drones' combat capabilities; IAI's website includes the payload limits for drones.

Drone expert Arie Egozi of the online publication Israel Homeland Security told JTA that "from a technological standpoint, every drone" can shoot missiles. "You put bombs under the wings and it shoots them," Egozi said.

Some critics argue that the use of drones raises serious moral and legal problems. The debate has been particularly heated on the American use of unmanned vehicles for targeted killings in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

While drones are not without their Israeli critics, they have provoked far less controversy here than in the United States. For many Israelis, a future where planes fly unmanned and pilots are at less risk of death or capture is a welcome development.

"If you can take the pilots out of danger, of course it's better," said Uri Aviv, a civilian flight instructor who spent 15 years in the Israeli Air Force. "The moral question is about hitting the target, not the type of weapon. It doesn't matter if you use a cannon, a tank, a plane or a drone. A pilot can't see who he's hitting—it's the same thing with a drone."

The biggest concern raised by drones, says Hebrew University philosophy professor Moshe Halbertal, is that their pinpoint accuracy raises the bar for the soldiers operating them. Freed from the stress and uncertainty of flying a plane, Halbertal said, soldiers must take more time to "identify who is a legitimate target" and review the decision before launching a strike.

Halbertal said he doubts that "those who operate drones will be much quicker in using weapons" than traditional pilots.

Egozi said the bigger question for Israel is about the efficacy of exporting to countries such as Russia, which has provided technology to Israeli adversaries like Iran and Syria. Israel's agreements with Russia have required pledges that Russia not sell certain missile technology to Iran.

Every IAI export deal must receive Israeli Defense Ministry approval before being finalized, according to Kalron.

He said he looks forward to a day when 95 percent of army aviation is unmanned and the Israeli Air Force is not needed.

"In 20 or 30 years they'll fly drones on commercial flights," Kalron said. "It's a trend that's developing quickly. Technology is superior than all human abilities." ■

As Syrian conflict rages, Druze loyalty to Assad persists

By Ben Sales

MAJDAL SHAMS, Israel (JTA)—At first glance, the identification cards of young Druze men looked identical to those of any Israeli, with a number, photo, name and address. The only difference is the citizenship line: Instead of listing "Israeli," most of the Druze cards are blank.

"If someone takes citizenship, he's labeled as an extremist," said Wafa Abusela, 19, sitting with his friends in a cafe in Majdal Shams, a Druze city in the northwest corner of the Golan Heights. "People won't talk to him."

A secretive offshoot of Islam, the Druze community spans the territory of Israel, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, and their allegiances are similarly fragmented. Druze who live in the Galilee are citizens of the Jewish state, but the Golan Druze rejected offers of citizenship after Israel annexed the territory in 1981, retaining their loyalty to Syria. Of the 20,000 Druze living on the Golan, only a small fraction hold Israeli citizenship.

There's little evidence to show this is changing. According to Interior Ministry figures, 20 Golan Druze requested Israeli citizenship in 2012—a substantial jump over the two to five that did so annually in previous years, but still a minuscule percentage of the total population.

But as the Syrian civil war continues to rage just over the border, the Golan Druze say they are grateful for the stability and security that Israel affords—even as they still eschew the idea of becoming citizens, citing pressure from their parents and the fear of reprisals should the Golan ever revert to Syrian control.

"A gap between Israel and Syria is standing out now with the civil war," said Shmuel Shamai, a professor at Tel Chai College and the Golan Research Institute. "The young people talk about the subject of human rights more, and all the murder happening in Syria, the young people don't identify with it."

Young Druze, Shamai said, feel less connected to Syria than their parents, though "they're still not going to be doing pro-Israel activity."

"People understand that there's democracy, that people can say what they want," said a Druze employee of the Interior Ministry, who has Israeli citizenship but did not give her name because she was not authorized to speak to the media. "People here are happy with Israel. It's good for me here. I was born here."

A 25-year-old gas station attendant illustrates the competing claims on Druze loyalty. Recently returned from Syria, he knows the horror stories unfolding on the other side and feels safer in Israel, where he hopes to begin working soon as a dentist. But loyalty to his family has made adopting Israeli citizenship an impossibility.

"My father taught me that we are Syrian," he said. "The feeling is, if you don't want to be Syrian, leave the state. My home is here. My parents are here."

Druze are generally loyal to the country in which they live. Unlike Israeli Arabs, many Galilee Druze serve in the Israeli army.

But many residents of Majdal Shams consider the Golan to be Syrian and, according to some reports, still support the Assad regime. A few said the rebels are agents of foreign interests—a belief promoted by the Assad regime.

"Whoever supports foreign entities doesn't understand politics," said Sayed, 43, who was born in Majdal Shams and did not give his last name. "We support the state, and whoever supports the state supports Assad."

Despite their divided loyalties, the Druze community is often held up as an exemplar of the Jewish state's success in protecting the rights of ethnic minorities, with Jewish tour groups routinely making stops in Druze villages to enjoy local hospitality.

"We and the Druze live in full cooperation," said Ori Kalner, deputy head of the Golan Regional Council.

Druze contractors have managed much of the Golan's recent construction, Kalner said, and the council is developing a shared industrial park with Majdal Shams.

Still, there's a sense among some Druze that Israel's rule over the Golan won't last forever. The Interior Ministry employee said that fear of an Israeli withdrawal keeps many residents from taking Israeli citizenship or openly supporting the rebels. Residents are scared, she said, that should Assad survive and come to regain control of the Golan someday, they will be punished for betrayal.

"In the end, we'll go to Syria," said Safi Awwad, who says he feels "almost" like an Israeli. "The Golan belongs to Syria."

Rafi Skandar disagreed, insisting that parental pressure against accepting Israeli citizenship would recede.

"In another five years," Skandar said, "everyone will have Israeli citizenship. ■

Noa, continued from page 1

guitarist and musical partner Gil Dor is one on Israel's greatest guitar players. Together they put on a show you will never forget."

In addition to some of Noa's classics such as Keren Or, Boi Kala and Life is Beautiful That Way (theme from the movie, Life is Beautiful), the concert will include selections from her recent album, The Israeli Songbook, a collection of classic Hebrew songs performed by Noa and Dor with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra. These pieces pay homage to some of the songs that have inspired them personally and molded Israeli culture and consciousness for the past 50 years.

"I'm delighted the Federation has engaged this world-renowned entertainer for Celebrate Israel," said Laurie Barnett, Jewish Federation president. "Noa performs to sold-out crowds all over Europe and around the world. We're so fortunate she'll be joining us here in Ann Arbor." ■

Event sponsorship above $180 includes tickets and entry to an afterglow with Noa. Tickets in a reserved section are $65 (general admission seating within the section). General admission tickets are $36 for adults and $12 for children and students. Visit www.jewishannarbor.org/celebrateisrael to learn more about Noa, sponsor the event or purchase tickets. For additional information, contact Eileen Freed at eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org or 677-0100.

Diane von Furstenberg, fashion icon and Holocaust museum supporter

By Chavie Lieber

NEW YORK (JTA)—Diane von Furstenberg takes a seat at her long, farm table-inspired desk inside her office on the fifth floor in this city's Meatpacking District. The studio is so vividly colored, so overly patterned and so decked out in exotic tchotchkes, von Furstenberg is one of the few people who could possibly occupy it.

Seated across from her is Sara Bloomfield, the executive director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the outfits of the two women could not be more different. Bloomfield is sporting a conservative blazer and pencil skirt, her hair combed into a neat bob, while von Furstenberg is draped in a green fur vest and moves her right arm carefully under the weight of an enormous gold bangle. Her hair is endearingly wild, and she smells incredible.

The two giggle at each other like old friends, the 66-year-old Jewish fashion designer complimenting Bloomfield on how "cute" she looks before rising to grab her camera and snap some photos. Bloomfield nervously sets her glass of Prosecco on the desk as von Furstenberg stifles a dirty look and rushes to grab a coaster.

They seem like an odd pair: Bloomfield, a pioneer of genocide awareness and adviser to numerous museums around the world, and von Furstenberg, one of the most successful women in fashion who rose to fame in 1974 with the debut of her iconic wrap dress and since has created a robust empire in women's clothing and housewares.

But the two women have a bond some 20 years in the making—a bond that has nothing to do with fashion and everything to do with von Furstenberg's Jewish heritage.

Von Furstenberg, host of a special event to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, has invited a select 70 people to her studio—including "Sex and the City" star Sarah Jessica Parker and television host Andy Cohen—so she can explain her unlikely friendship with Bloomfield and her longtime commitment to preserving the memory of the Holocaust. "I'm involved with the Holocaust museum because I firmly believe in its importance, and there's no one else doing work like this," she tells JTA. "Last month they did something amazing for me. Without telling me, they mailed me this giant box of all the details of my mother and father during the Holocaust that the Germans and Swiss kept. They had photos and documentation of everything, and it was so special to me."

Her Jewish heritage might be important, but it's something von Furstenberg has taken an interest in only later in life.

Born Diane Simone Michelle Halfin, von Furstenberg is the child of a Holocaust survivor, Lily Nahmias. A blond Greek Jew, Lily was involved in resistance efforts against the Nazis, helping deliver counterfeit papers to other Jews. She was caught in 1944 and sent to Auschwitz. By the time the war ended, she weighed just 49 pounds.

But Lily survived and went on to marry a Romanian Jew, Leon Halfin, who hid in Switzerland during the war. A doctor warned her not to get pregnant, as her body would not be able to handle the trauma. But Diane was born in late 1946, and believes she is a testament to the Jewish will to live. "I was born on New Year's, and every year my mother would say, 'God saved me so that I could give you life. You are my flag of freedom,' " von Furstenberg recalls, making eye contact with the few Holocaust survivors in the room invited by Bloomfield. "This is the heritage I carry, and this is very strong to me."

Early on, Von Furstenberg felt no particular connection to her Jewishness. Her mother neither avoided nor elaborated on her experiences during the war, although von Furstenberg recalls the two tattoos she had on her arms. Lily would mention things here and there, like how she longed for freedom and a plate of spaghetti during those dark

Diane von Furstenberg

days, but never burdened her daughter with all the details. Lily showed no apparent disdain when von Furstenberg married a German prince, Egon von Furstenberg, in 1969.

But von Furstenberg found her way back to her Jewish roots after she was honored by the Anti-Defamation League with its Women of Achievement Award in 1981.

"I don't really think they knew anything about me, they probably just gave me the award because they knew I would bring a large group," she tells the crowd sitting around her desk. "But when I got up that day to speak, I heard the words of my mother being a Holocaust survivor come out of my mouth, and these were words that I never said and that I never actually thought, and I started to shake. It was a major revelation because I realized that it was my heritage and I hadn't realized how deeply connected I really felt."

Von Furstenberg was one of the first people approached by Bloomfield when plans to build the Holocaust museum in Washington were first discussed. Von Furstenberg, who insists she is horrible at raising money and would "rather give you a check and just leave me alone," agreed to help fundraise for the museum. She says she believes it is her duty to talk about the Holocaust and spread awareness because few expect these kinds of sentiments from her.

The fundraisers in the 1990s for the fashion industry on behalf of the Holocaust museum were incredibly emotional and sometimes uncomfortable, von Furstenberg says, but she forced herself into the events at the Upper East Side's Carlyle Hotel on New York City's Upper East Side. "Celebrating freedom through the museum is the most important thing in the world," she says. "It is not just to remember the Holocaust but to talk about tolerance, and of course never to forget the 6 million Jews who were killed, as the last survivors are around."

She recalled the museum's inauguration in April 1993, where she stood next to then-President Clinton and was showered in hail, despite the predicted warm weather. "God wanted everyone out there to know and to feel how cold [Holocaust survivors] were," she said.

Von Furstenberg says she is "incredibly proud" of her involvement with the museum from the beginning. "I know I've honored my mother through it, and I will continue to honor her," she says. "Everything I have is because of her." ■

Acclaimed filmmaker turns camera on his own Holocaust experience for 'Frontline'

By Penny Schwartz

BOSTON (JTA)—When he was 5 years old, Marian Marzynski's parents hatched a plan to smuggle him out of the Warsaw Ghetto.

It was 1942, and Marzynski and his family were among the 400,00 Jews rounded up two years earlier by the Nazis, confined to the 1.3-sq.-mile ghetto in the heart of the city. To stay alive, Marzynski's parents warned him, you must forget who you are.

That lesson in survival shepherded the young boy over the next three years as he hid from his tormentors, separated from his parents. He eventually became one of the few child survivors of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Marzynski (born Marian Kuszner) would go on to become an Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker in the United States. Now, 70 years later, after a career in which he made acclaimed films about Polish Jewry and the Holocaust, Marzynski has trained the camera on himself, telling his own story and those of other survivors in *Never Forget to Lie*, a film scheduled for nationwide broadcast on April 30 on the PBS series "Frontline."

In the hourlong film co-produced with Jason Longo, Marzynski retraces his early years, chronicling his parents' secular lives in prewar Warsaw, their confinement in the ghetto, his escape to the Aryan side of the wall, and his jounrey to the Catholic orphanage where he embraced life as a dutiful altar boy.

With an artful, empathic hand, he tells the stories of other survivors as well, capturing their childhood memories as they grapple with the trauma and loss of their early lives. There are uplifting scenes, too, of Jewish culture and heritage being celebrated in the streets of Krakow.

Marian Marzynski

"If there is news in this film, it's about a new perception of the Holocaust," Marzynski told JTA in an interview in his suburban Boston home. "It's basically a question of unfinished business. We are coming back to our childhood—a story of stolen childhood."

Most Holocaust films have focused on the harsh realities of life in the concentration camps, not child survivors, so Marzynski views his film as a corrective of sorts, and a timely one. Child survivors are the last witnesses, and Marzynski says they have reached a point in their lives where they are ready to share their stories with the world.

"Other directors come in and tell the stories of other people," said Sharon Pucker Rivo, an adjunct associate professor of Jewish film at Brandeis University. "Marian is a native insider. He knows the language, the territory. He didn't need intermediaries."

After the war, Marzynski reunited with his mother. His father, who escaped a transport train to a death camp, was murdered in the forest outside of Warsaw. Unlike most survivors, Marzynski remained in Poland with his mother, who remarried another survivor, and took his stepfather's name.

Growing up under Communist rule, Marzynski said he understood the political realities. The message was, "We all suffered from the Nazis. Everyone's equal. Don't brag about being Jewish, that you suffered more than other people."

Marzynski became a journalist and a successful radio and television personality. But in 1969, during a wave of politically motivated anti-Semitism in Poland, Marzynski fled to Denmark with his family—his wife, their young son and his mother and stepfather. Later, they resettled in the United States.

"We did not want our son to have to live the lie that I had to live," he says.

In *Never Forget to Lie,* Marzynski ventures for the first time into the forest where his father was murdered. The camera lingers on the filmmaker as he holds his father's watch, telling viewers that it is the first time he is wearing it. For a few moments, the otherwise voluble, opinionated director can hardly speak.

"It's a quiet moment," Rivo said. "There's no swelling music, no gimmicks. You can see he is moved."

Marzynski hopes the film reaches a wide audience, especially non-Jews. The survivor stories reflect the universal human experience, he says.

Marzynski got a taste of that broader resonance in January, when he and his wife were invited to join a group of 560 European high school students and 85 teachers on a trip from Tuscany to Poland on the Treno della Memoria ("train of memory"), an Italian Holocaust education project. After visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau and seeing his film, many students approached him, fascinated to meet a survivor. He says he was impressed by how eager they were were to learn about this history, and their perspectives were completely changed.

"I want non-Jews to know the Holocaust in such a way that they can apply it to their own lives," Marzynski said. "This is the job I am doing, transferring the Holocaust experience to a new audience."

Never Forget to Lie will air on Tuesday, April 30, at 10 p.m. on PBS. ■

The Anne Frank Sapling Project

A Tree Grows In Michigan

From my favorite spot on the floor, I look up at the blue sky and the bare chestnut tree, on whose branches little raindrops shine, appearing like silver.

-Anne Frank

Anne Frank's Diary has captivated millions since its publication in 1947. Timeless and elegantly written, Anne expresses her hope for a better future.

In **Spring 2013**, a sapling from Anne's chestnut tree will make its permanent home in metro Detroit. **Join us** as we strive to make Anne's dream a reality!

Information: lawrence.willim2@holocaustcenter.org

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTER ZEKELMAN FAMILY CAMPUS

Recognized. Respected. Recommended!

Congratulations, Michal - East Office Sales Leader
Celebrating another great year with Reinhart!

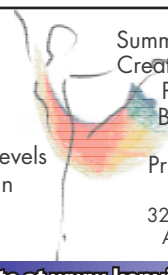
Michal's absolute commitment to her clients comes naturally. Her work ethic, accessibility and upfront honesty has resulted in 17.8 million in 2012 sales and 29 years of success in residential real estate. She is available and responsive to your needs promptly, with detailed information, options and advice, always with your best interests in mind. Whether it is buying a home long distance, competing for that perfect new home in your favorite neighborhood, working through multiple offers, or facing a marketing challenge, Michal is trusted to get the job done for buyers and sellers because she has proven over and over that she will succeed. It is no wonder that her client base has been built by word of mouth, one satisfied client at a time. Consistently ranked among the top ten real estate agents in Ann Arbor, she is a Certified Residential Specialist whose patience, good humor and resourcefulness will make all the difference for you when you make a move!

Michal Porath
734-395-0650
ThinkMichal.com
mporath@comcast.net

Reinhart
Charles Reinhart Company Realtors
Office: 734-971-6070

Kenville STUDIOS of Dance & Creativity

Ballet for all ages & levels • Tap & Jazz, for all ages & levels
Hip Hop • Pilates • Yoga • Zumba • Classical Indian
Flamenco • Belly Dancing • African • Ballroom
Swing • Shorinji Kempo Martial Art



Summer Day Camps,
Creative movement/art,
Puppet Theatre
Ballet Intensives

Private Lessons

323 E. Hoover St.
Ann Arbor, MI

For more info call 734-302-3502 or visit our website at www.kenvillestudios.com

CANTOR SAMUEL GREENBAUM
— Certified Mohel —

Skill, Sensitivity and Tradition come together to create your special Bris.

Answering all of your anesthetic & aftercare needs.
(248) 855-A BOY (2269)
Office: (248) 547-7970
perfectnow@excite.com

1299150

The Center for Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery welcomes Medical Aesthetician MYKEN SWAITHES

Devoted to our patients, Dedicated to results.

Myken brings 10 years of experience to confidently treat skin conditions including acne, pigmentation and aging skin. Her extensive formal medical Aesthetic training and progressive approach makes her a perfect addition to the growing CPRS team.

Please call our office to schedule an appointment with Myken for any of the following services:

- Chemical Peels & Dermaplaning
- DermaSound Ultrasonic Facials
- Laser Hair Reduction
- Photo facials & Pixel Resurfacing
- Microdermabrasion
- Skin Care Consultations

Take advantage of **20% off all laser hair reduction services** with Myken now through May 31st (some restrictions apply).

Additional Aesthetic Services
offered by the injector team at CPRS:
~ Botox and Dysport
~ Dermal Fillers

734-712-2323
www.facebook.com/CPRSA2
www.cprs-aa.com

CENTER FOR PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

Paul Izenberg, MD
David Hing, MD
Richard Beil, MD
Daniel Sherick, MD
Ian Lytle, MD

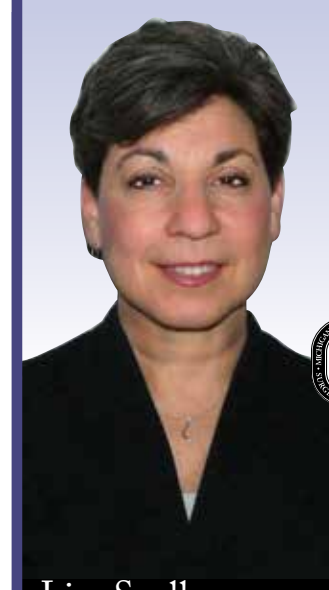
Members
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGEONS

Welcome Myken Swaithes

Why did Mrs. Horowitz get hearing aids?

"I just couldn't hear people at meetings. I wasn't able to take an active part or contribute."

We can help you stay active. And improve your life.



A hearing evaluation by my staff of expert Audiologists can find and help overcome any problem.

Please call **(734) 429-1520** or **(800) 851-6672** to schedule a hearing evaluation. I'm confident we can help, just as we've helped countless others thoughout Washtenaw County.

M·O·S·A Hearing Aid Centers
& Audiology Services
420 W. Russell St., Suite 101, Saline, MI
www.mosaaudiology.com

Save $250

Present this ad for $250 off a set of premium digital hearing aids.
MOSA Hearing Aid Centers
Expires December 31, 2013 • ref. code WJN

Purim at the JCC Early Childhood Center

PHOTOS BY TOBY HOLLANDER

1. ECC Kangaroos marching in parade
2. ECC children singing Purim songs
3. Deirdre Davis and Grover Thompson acting out the Purim story
4. ECC Ducks marching with their teacher Sophia Maher
5. Early Childhood Center Director, Peretz Hirshbein

Ann Arbor State Bank
The Personal Bank

Meet Your Personal Mortgage Professionals

Jeremy Shaffer
734.418.0583

Kimberly Pearsall
734.418.0582

Nicole Mourning
517.315.4670

Jason Robinson
734.274.5782

Sean Breeden
734.418.0588

Dave Graff
734.274.6346

Craig Orndorf
734.272.4087

Caring service, advice and experience, here and now at Ann Arbor State Bank.

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

a2sb.com | 122 South Main

FDIC

People's Food Co-op
ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 18 2013

keynote speaker
ORAN HESTERMAN
of Fair Food Network will speak about food-justice

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

People's Food Co-op

216 N. FOURTH AVENUE, ANN ARBOR | 734 . 994 . 9174 | PEOPLESFOOD.COOP

Chelsea Flower Shop, LLC
203 E. Liberty St. Phone 662-5616
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
www.chelseaflowersllc.com
FTD
Over 60 years of excellent services

TOBI HOLLANDER
PHOTOGRAPHY

Transform a moment of your life into a work of art

Make your appointment today
www.tobihollanderphotography.com
tobihollander@yahoo.com
734-757-3591

Pregnancy & Newborn Artwork * Family Portraiture * Senior Portraits * Events
Studio located in Ann Arbor

A book to nurture your soul

Rachel Urist, staff writer

In *The History of Love,* Nicole Krauss weaves a tale that crosses time and space, transcending both. Her focus is a small cast of characters on different continents whose lives intersect in unpredictable ways. As she contemplates their lives, she creates a meditation on what it means to survive as a Jew. She measures the value of invisibility, the inevitability of longing, and the pain and comfort of both love and death. She does all this with a delicious sense of the absurd and a wicked sense of humor. She is a latter-day *badkhan*, a comedian/scholar not unlike like Shakespeare's wise fools.

She introduces her central character, Leo Gursky, at age 70, but since we travel back and forth in time, we see Leo in his early years, too. He was a writer in his youth. His magnum opus is lost; he never sees it published. That work tells the story of the great love of his life, Alma Mereminski, his childhood playmate. When they are 10, he proposes marriage. At age 16 they pledge their love. The next year, as war erupts, she is sent to America. He survives the war, but everything has changed.

Leo struggles to accept that his words, like his life, have predeceased him. He is perpetually perplexed: *How do we fill our souls in the absence of love?* His book, which is also entitled *The History of Love,* is offered to us in segments, and it reveals the extent of his philosophical ruminations. In one section, he zeroes in on the final days of Isaac Babel, the great Russian-Jewish writer. Gursky tries to imagine what went through his head as he heads toward execution.

Even after they arrested him and burned all of his manuscripts … he refused to speak. … Only at the last possible moment … did he sense the possibility of his error. As the rifles were pointed at his chest he wondered if what he had taken for the richness of silence was really the poverty of never being heard. But as the bullets tore from the rifles, his body was riddled with the truth. … How could he have forgotten what he had always known: There's no match for the silence of God.

Krauss dips into these dark realms, but she never stays there long. Consider the language that Krauss gives to the grandchildren of Leo's generation. It is one of many comic riffs, and it offers a sense of the author's ear for dialogue and dialect. When young Alma (named for the Alma in Gursky's book – the book was not lost after all!) becomes the pen-pal of a Russian-Jewish émigré to Israel, their letters prompt this exchange:

—Father is mathematician.

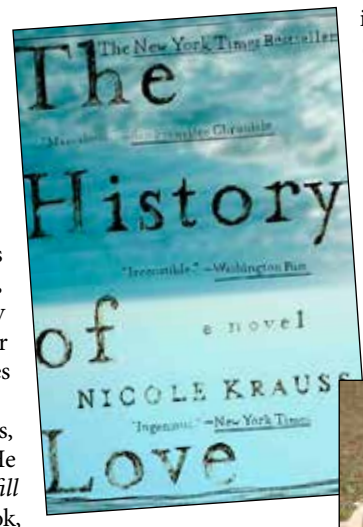
—Do you have a dog? How many people use your bathroom? Do you own anything that belongs to the Czar?

—Boy in my class is moved to New York. Maybe you want write him because he knows anybody.

Elsewhere, in a section describing Alma's trip to Israel, Alma's *Bubbie* (grandmother) wrings her hands because Alma has neither breasts nor boyfriends. *"But I'm only 12!"* protests Alma. *"So?" Bubbie* recalls that when she was twelve, she had plenty of boyfriends and a respectable bosom. When they visit the Western Wall, *Bubbie* tells Alma to write a note and push it between the stones. Alma complies. But when she inserts her own note, her grandmother's drops to the ground. Alma picks it up and reads:

Baruch Hashem, I and my husband should live to see tomorrow and that way my Alma should grow up to be blessed with health and happiness and what would be so terrible some nice breasts.

Krauss's nonlinear style, in both this and *Great House (2010),* is a bit like a dare. *Trust me,* she seems to say, *and I will transport you to places you never dreamed of.* Her writing is seductive; the reader cannot help but surrender. She inspires confidence. She navigates her route with aplomb. The route may feel uncharted, but the vistas she shows us are breathtaking.



Nicole Krauss

Consider this sentence: *"Liberation is just the means of attaining freedom; it's not synonymous with it!"* Or: "*A thought crossed his face in a language I didn't understand.*" This last is the thought of young Alma, who knows all too well how to read people. She is the child of a widowed mother in perpetual mourning. Like many children of depressed mothers, Alma is tuned into people. Her mother seeks refuge in books. She also translates books, having mastered several languages. The book she translates at the moment is *The History of Love,* which, as it happens, was published – in Spanish! Alma and her little brother have inherited their mother's sensitivity to words. Each keeps a journal. The entries are integral to Krauss's tale, whose intersecting stories reach us through these several narrators.

Through their stories, we relive Gursky's childhood. We learn that he survived the war by becoming invisible. He lived in forests and cellars, eating roots, scraps and rodents. After the war, he arrives in America only to find that Alma is married. But he also learns that he is the father of her first-born child, conceived in Slonim, born in America. He is Isaac, who has become a famous writer. Leo is proud. But he must keep mum.

He apprentices himself to his American cousin, who teaches him to be a locksmith and encourages him in the trade with the words: *"Show me a Jew who survives and I'll show you a magician."* Gursky begins to identify with Houdini. Like the magician, the locksmith improves his skills by timing himself as he practices picking locks. At some point, he realizes that in Europe, he would be dubbed a thief for this skill. In America he is a professional.

When Isaac dies prematurely, Leo Gursky attends the funeral. Alma, the only one who might have recognized him, is dead. Leo follows the family to the *shiva* house, where he is suddenly, accosted by the host, who asks Gursky why he is there. *"Related,"* Gursky mumbles. The host says: "*Family! So sorry, forgive me. I thought I'd met all the mishpocheh!*" Krauss adds: "The way he pronounced it was *mishpoky.*" It is a wry observation of the devolution of Yiddish, along with the dissipation of old-world Jewry in secular America.

Every paragraph is lush, rich with imagery and philosophy, informed by history and logic – even when the non-linear sequences may leave the reader mildly baffled. The paths of the Leo and young Alma finally intersect at the book's end. They connect. Initial confusion makes way for tenderness and a meeting of souls. Leo, pining for death, is not quite sure, at first, that this figure who calls herself Alma is real. Which Alma is she? Is she a figment of his imagination? If not, is she related to his Alma? As the truth begins to unfold, he thinks: *"I lived this long. Please. A little longer won't kill me."*

Jewish history is Krauss's springboard to stories. She flits through time and space like a sprite, and her command of Jewish history, liturgy, and tradition is prodigious. Yiddish words and Hebrew references make frequent appearances. Krauss follows the axiom: "to make a work universal, make it very specific." Her writing has the depth and lyricism that is totally lacking in the work of popular but shameless novelists who plumb Jewish texts for fame and fortune. Krauss, by contrast, is an original. Her imagination knows no bounds, yet she is always in control of her narrative. It is notable that she was a Marshall Scholar, an honor as rare and prestigious as that of Rhodes Scholars. She wrote poetry under the tutelage of Josef Brodsky, the Nobel laureate, and has master degrees in creative writing (Stanford) and art history (Oxford).

The History of Love was published in 2005, at the same time that her husband, Jonathan Safran Foer, published his *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*. Their writing has uncanny parallels. Each has a preternatural feel for time, language, Jewish sensibility, and the power of humanity—from comedy to cruelty. Each populates the novel with bright, compelling, youthful characters hunting for meaning in the wake of horror. The young people form bonds with older adults who either join them on their search or have given up trying to make sense of the world. The writing is often funny.

A recent *New Yorker* included Krauss's short story, *Zusya on the Roof,* about a holocaust survivor. Iconic Yiddish words and Hebrew liturgical traditions make frequent and apt appearances. Krauss's specificity makes her work accessible to everyone. She flits through time and space like a sprite, and the depth of her Jewish learning is impressive.

The History of Love won the William Saroyan International Prize for Writing, France's Prix du Meilleur Livre Ėtranger, was named #1 book of the year by Amazon.com, and was short-listed for the Orange, Médicis, and Femina prizes. Krauss's fiction has been translated into 35 languages. This book, like klezmer, is art that nurtures the soul. ■

Miriam,
continued from page 15

factors made me so much more excited when my turn came to be a part of the delegation to Israel. This trip was my fourth trip to Israel. The past three times, I have gone with my family to visit friends. This trip was very different in many ways.

The night we arrived in Nahalal, we had Shabbat dinner with our host families. Even though I was practically a zombie thanks to jet lag, the first dinner was very fun. Over the next few days our group went on a tour of Nahalal, took day trips to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, and visited the elementary school on the Moshav. The trips to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv were very inspiring. I got to see the cities in new ways, not muddled by what my parents limited me to see.

From Left: Abigail Hirshbein, Aiya Bernstein, Adira Cohen & Miriam Hamermesh enjoy Purim festivities at the Nahalal High School

On Thursday, we celebrated Purim with kids our age in Nahalal at their high school. I attended a Jewish elementary school so I have been to my fair share of Purim parties, but the way they celebrated this holiday was so different than anything I had ever experienced! Everyone was so carefree and everything was so festive. But that was not the only enlightening part of the day. I kind of felt like the celebration was just like Halloween. People were in some pretty stunning costumes. I wasn't expecting everyone to be so into the holiday, but even the 12th graders were decked out! Seeing their strange customs and how different they are from mine was so enriching!

Of course Purim was not the only place in which I noticed our cultural differences. Their schools! It felt like the entire country had such a lackadaisical way of schooling. I missed two days of school for the plane flight to Israel and I had a mountain of work to make up when I got back. But the Israelis missed about every other day of school when we were there and no one even cared. One of the Israelis who used to live in America told me that he found out when he moved to Nahalal that it was actually weird NOT to skip school. The whole way they went about their education, just seemed so careless to me.

But strange foreign customs aside, I had a very educational trip. I learned things about the culture of Israel that I probably wouldn't have learned had I just been a tourist with my family. The trip was amazing and I made many friendships with kids just like me in Israel. I got back less than a week ago, yet still the whole trip seems like a blur to me. I miss everything about Israel, the people, the food, the language… and I would give almost anything to go back. This experience will be something I treasure for the rest of my life, and I can't wait until September when my friends from Nahalal come on their trip to America! ■

Rebecca Biber–Flautist, pianist and accompanist

Sandor Slomovits, staff writer

Rebecca Biber is an Ann Arbor musician who teaches piano and flute in her private studio, and also works as an accompanist in a variety of settings, including as part of the pit orchestra for many local musical theater productions. We talked about her life in music, appropriately enough, over tea at the Songbird Café.

WJN: Did you get your interest in music from your family?

Biber: My family is very musical, but I'm the only person in it who went into music as a career. Growing up I remember hearing music all the time, and my mom is a great devotee of classical vocal music. She loves opera, art songs, lieder, and so through her I got exposed to that and also to classical piano music. My dad enjoys, contrastingly, bluegrass and reggae and different world musics, and so I just heard some of everything. It was great. I remember dancing around the living room to record albums of Taj Mahal and Jimmy Cliff. And at my grandparents' house I would listen to a lot of Theodore Bikel, so I heard the klezmer music at their house. Definitely a family of music lovers.

WJN: Did you grow up in Ann Arbor?

Biber: I grew up in the Detroit area, in Huntington Woods. I was lucky to have all four of my grandparents nearby. I went to Cranbrook for high school, which was a very arts rich environment, and then I came to the UofM for college.

WJN: When did you start playing piano?

Biber: I started piano lessons when I was seven. I think I became fascinated with the piano in nursery school. There was a Russian lady named Lyudmila who would come in and play. I remember specifically that she played a song, "All the Pretty Horses" which is a very haunting song. That's one of my early flashbulb memories of being drawn to the piano. My parents found a local teacher, Donna Edwards. I stayed with her through the end of high school. She helped me prepare for my college audition.

In fifth grade everyone in our school district chose either a band or orchestra instrument, so that's when I picked up the flute.

WJN: It's an unusual double.

Biber: Yes. What's great about playing flute and piano is that there's a certain repertoire that I know very well. I have students on both instruments, and when I accompany for the flute repertoire I've already played it on the flute side, so I understand it better.

WJN: You carried the flute through college as well.

Biber: I did. It never had as big a role for me as piano, but I took lessons and I did a year in the UofM marching band on piccolo, and it was an interesting experience for somebody who does not care a whit about football. (Laughter) It was something to do on the way to becoming a music teacher. I ended up using those basic skills when I did teach in a school, and it was helpful that I had done it, but it still wasn't my favorite.

WJN: You also play pennywhistle.

Biber: I started flute in school and pennywhistle was an easy transfer. The fingerings are mostly the same. The technicalities of embouchure are a lot easier on whistle than on flute. My flashbulb moment of getting interested in Celtic music was probably when I was five or six years old, riding around in the car with my mom and I heard the program, *Thistle and Shamrock* on the radio. I was just struck by this sound I'd never heard before. From then on, my parents knew that this was something I enjoyed, so they made opportunities for me to hear Celtic music.

Rebecca Biber

WJN: How did your parents feel about you going into music?

Biber: They were very supportive, but there was brief tense period when my dad was worried about the financial implications of me trying to make a living as a musician. My dad is an architect and a sculptor, a very gifted sculptor, actually. He tried to make a living as a sculptor for a number of years and found it extremely hard going and found architecture to be a much more reliable way to make a living and support a family. I think he just didn't want to see me suffer any hardship ever, so he kind of discouraged the idea of going into music, but he liked the idea that I was interested in teaching because he saw it as a safety zone. And it's a bonus that I really enjoy teaching. I don't see it as a fall back. I see it as the thing that I'm totally meant to do.

WJN: You started by teaching in schools, but now you teach privately.

Biber: It was a combination of things. I loved teaching in public schools, actually. It was great. But, there were some realities about teaching that had nothing to do with music or the kids, that I wasn't comfortable with, like district politics, or that I could be moved from position to position, and building to building without my say so. These happened to coincide with what seemed a good time for me to try to break out on my own and be an independent studio teacher. I already had some private students and enough of a financial cushion that if I completely nosedived and failed, I would be all right…(Laughter) so I said, "OK, I'm going to try to make a go of the private studio teaching." And I have never really looked back. My studio has grown and grown and now I still do some work in schools, I accompany for choirs, I love going into schools and working with groups, but what I do every day is teaching private lessons. And I'm in love with my job. (Laughter)

WJN: Do you teach strictly classical?

Biber: I take all comers, anyone who is genuinely interested in learning and is curious about music and enthusiastic. There are some students that I'm probably not equipped to handle, like if I got a really serious jazz student I'd have to pass them onto a colleague, but any sort of beginner is fine and I try to have a variety of musical styles. I like to give students some choice in what they play, and some gravitate toward classical, and some toward jazz or ragtime styles, and that goes both for flute and piano. I try to guide people toward music that I think will be an appropriate level of difficulty, because students who lack experience tend to pick things that are too hard and then they get frustrated. But stylistically I try to give students a lot of freedom, though the majority of the music I teach and play is classical.

As a teacher, I try to help student work through whatever issues they have around performance so that they can perform and feel fairly confident. I also find, and maybe it's particular to students who self-select to study the piano, that there is a strain of perfectionism that runs through us collectively, and for students to learn how to make mistakes gracefully, and accept that no performance is going to be perfect, that's a big deal. It was for me as a student and it is for me as a teacher, to be empathic enough and compassionate enough to understand that making a mistake is really hard. It's really hard to accept. A lot of teaching is not only teaching reading and improvising and composing and listening – those are all important too – but just accepting the life of a musician, where you're striving for this ideal, you know it's very rare to get there, and you learn to live with that.

I'm really happy with what I'm doing now. The only dissatisfaction that I had, that I think I've found a solution to, was that I had started to feel like I'd reached kind of an impasse in my own musical development. I felt as though my technique was lacking and I had unanswered questions. I really needed to find a teacher of my own again. I hadn't had a private lesson teacher since college, and I happened to meet Michelle Cooker, who is a local well-known pianist. Now I study with her and not only is she answering the questions that I had, but she's raised new questions and she's totally changed my perspective on everything about the piano. Really, it's been an epiphany. I feel like I'm developing as a musician again, and that's refreshing. I'm better able to help my own students because of everything that she's transmitting to me.

The other thing is that a few years ago, kind of unexpectedly, I got into the world of musical theater. I think I caught the bug. Since then I've tried to do a show or two each year. I have gotten to work with a lot of local theaters and community groups, gotten to participate in a lot of great shows and that's been just really a lot of fun.

One of the groups that I have been lucky enough to work with is the Penny Seats, which is a newer Ann Arbor theater group. They perform mostly outside, in West Park. Most of their board members and founding members happen to be Jewish. They're consistently high quality and original, they're wonderful. The challenges of doing musical theater outdoors are numerous, but they're just really good. They pick challenging shows and their auditions are not easy.

WJN: Your grandparents are Holocaust survivors. Do you feel that that resonates in your life in some way?

Biber: Yes. How could it not? I think it's a very strange and proud legacy to have, to feel like you're part of such strong stuff. Hearing their stories has always been very sobering, and at the same time there's something unspeakably miraculous about survival, in the minutia of the encounters and the near escapes, and also in the big picture of just survival through history. I feel very lucky and also very, very glad and proud to be American, as do my grandparents.

WJN: Where were they during the war?

Biber: My *zayda's* family—the border between Russia and Poland being somewhat variable—ended up on the Russian side, which at first seemed to be a great misfortune and ended up really being probably the reason he survived. He worked for the Russian Army as a conscript. My grandmother was on the Polish side and she, along with her mother and younger sister were hidden by some really, truly good Catholic Polish families, who made sure that they had a cellar to hide in and enough food at least to get by—at great risk to themselves.

My grandparents met after the war. My grandfather was a student and my grandmother and her mom and younger sister were living in a DP Camp. They met in Salzburg, Austria. They have wonderful memories of that time. They met, fell in love, courted, married, had my mom, all in Salzburg, and the whole family immigrated to the US when my mom was about two years old.

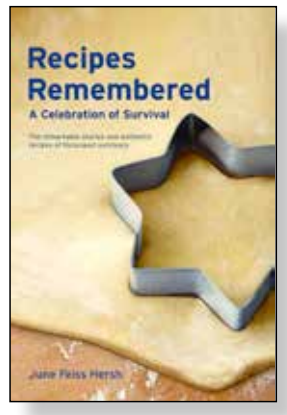
I feel fortunate that my grandparents have been willing to talk about it, my grandmother especially, to get her story on the record. She's part of a running video loop at the National Holocaust Center in Washington DC. There's a clip of her there, thanking her Polish saviors, and she was actually able to go back to Poland some years ago and visit the surviving members of the family that saved her.

It's a big part of who I am. I don't know that there's a direct connection from that to music, unless it's just the feeling that you've got to do what you've got to do while you're alive, and not waste any time. ■

Recipes remembered

Mary Bilyeu, staff writer

Yom HaShoah is not a day that you might ordinarily associate with food. It is not an occasion that lends itself to the black humor in the infamous Jewish line, "They tried to kill us, we survived, let's eat!" So many decades later, and yet it is still far too soon for the reclaiming that has come to Chanukah or Purim, for example, where stories of victory are told in conjunction with specially designated dishes and treats.



And yet, despite this seeming inappropriateness—as commemorative food for observances tends to have a celebratory nature, and it is difficult to imagine such a notion when thinking of extermination and starvation—there are, in fact, a number of Holocaust-related books which offer recipes. Elizabeth Ehrlich's *Miriam's Kitchen: A Memoir* was written by the daughter-in-law of a survivor, and tells of how the two women cooked together as history and tradition were passed from one generation to the next. Another, *In Memory's Kitchen: A Legacy from the Women of Terezin*, contains recipes that fellow prisoners shared with each other, hoping that the dishes would survive even if those who painstakingly wrote them into a hand-stitched notebook did not.

The most recent addition to this genre is *Recipes Remembered: A Celebration of Survival*, which author June Hersh described to me via email as "a project that has captured (her) heart and soul." The book features not only recipes but also interviews with more than 80 survivors, "people who spent weeks on end in bunkers, fighting as partisans in the forest or enduring months and years in forced labor or death camps." Despite tremendous odds and inconceivable losses, these individuals lived to share their memories through dishes that they continue to prepare and to pass along not only to their descendants but to you, now, as well. "The food … represents the survivors' ties with their childhood and family," June wrote to me. And "we must preserve the legacy of the Holocaust survivor community and preserve food memory for generations to come."

As the book's introduction notes: "Plucked from their homes, our contributors were children of the Holocaust, thrown from comfort to chaos. Many survived death camps, displacement or years of hiding while others were sent to safety arriving in unfamiliar places. We consider all these contributors survivors as they survived the unimaginable and their lives were forever changed. Prior to the war, they had enjoyed memorable meals and family gatherings .... Through it all, one important constant was the food they remembered."

There is "such diversity of recipes" in the cookbook, June noted, "and they all represent the best in Jewish food." When I asked her which dishes she is particularly fond of, she replied: "I regularly make the lentil soup given to me by a Greek family, the rugelach from my Romanian baker and the brisket from a Polish partisan."

Recipes Remembered "is organized by region, because the country where each contributor was born very much determined their experiences before and during the war as well as their food memories." Thus, there are contributions representative of Poland; Germany and Austria; Belgium and France; Hungary and Czechoslovakia; Romania, Russia and the Ukraine; and Greece. There are also some recipes from Latin America, where a number of families ultimately found freedom and safety, and even a few dishes from Italy, as one survivor "never felt German, and preferred to cook the Italian food (her) husband enjoyed." The breadth of Jewish culinary variety and adaptability is represented in this collection.

As important as it was to save and share the survivors' recipes, it was even more critical to save and share their memories of the Holocaust. Each one tells of the last time she saw her mother before her parents were imprisoned or of her father giving emigration papers to a pregnant relative to expedite her being saved; of coming home one day to find his family home had been burned to the ground or of being arrested and sent to a series of labor camps; of being taken in by nuns and getting baptized or of hiding in a barn and attempting to trade a diamond ring for bread. Each story is poignant and heartbreaking, and yet also offers hope. As one interviewee, Judith Ginsburg, says: "There was survivor's guilt, why did I survive, why me? Every survivor feels this way. I knew we had to bring in new generations to build up ...." All of the contributors end their statements with a proud recounting of how many children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren they now have to share their recipes, their memories, and their love with.

From these inspiring stories, June told me that she "learned the true meaning of perspective." The experience of putting this book together, she said, "has given me new insight into the challenges life throws at someone and how to handle those challenges with grace and resilience. 'My' survivors taught me that we don't get to choose what life hands us, but we do choose how we handle it. I heard many times that being bitter was not an option, losing hope was not helpful and losing faith never made things better. I am forever changed by this book and I genuinely feel that anyone who takes this book into their home or heart will experience the same profound effect."

What better way to commemorate Yom HaShoah—to never forget—than to read the stories in *Recipes Remembered* and to prepare some of the dishes that help to keep memories alive?

Recipes Remembered, which was nominated for a James Beard Award, is available on Amazon.com; on QVC.com (June was a featured guest on the television channel last month); and at the website of the Museum of Jewish Heritage at mjhnyc.org. The book will soon be available on June's personal website, junehersh.com, as well as at her public appearances. You can follow June on Facebook and on Twitter for updates about the book and her schedule.

Luna Cohen's Fakee (Greek Lentil Soup)

This traditional lentil soup is a perfect example of bringing good, healthful ingredients together. What makes this soup Greek is the acidic "zing" that Luna's daughter, Rachel, suggests you add right before serving

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 pound brown or green lentils, rinsed
- 2 celery ribs, diced
- 2 carrots, peeled and diced
- 2 bay leaves
- kosher salt and pepper
- 1 6-ounce can tomato paste
- 6–8 tablespoons balsamic vinegar, for serving

Heat the olive oil in a large soup pot, cook and stir the onions and garlic over medium heat until lightly browned, about 10 minutes. Add the lentils, celery, carrots, bay leaves and 6 cups of water. Season with salt and pepper. Cook, covered, on low heat for 50 minutes. Check the soup from time to time, adding boiling water as needed if the soup becomes too thick. After 50 minutes, stir in 1 can of tomato paste and cook for an additional 10 minutes. Don't overcook the soup, the lentils will become mushy and lose their nutty bite. Remove the bay leaves and drizzle 1 tablespoon of balsamic vinegar into each soup bowl right before serving.

Yields 6 to 8 servings.

Peri Hirsch's Rugelach

Peri's rugelach are jam-packed morsels, tender and flaky, with a subtle sweetness. Felix, Peri's husband, credits the family rolling pin for the perfection of these little bites of heaven. He says, "It has worked magic for generations." The beauty of this recipe is you can increase the sweet factor or nutty texture by adjusting the filling to your taste.

For the dough:

- 1 stick butter, room temperature
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 4-ounce package cream cheese, room temperature
- 1 tablespoon orange juice
- 1 egg
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder

For the filling:

- ½ cup apricot preserves, room temperature
- ½ cup sugar + 1–2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- ½ cup raisins
- 4 ounces chopped nuts

For the topping:

- 1 lightly beaten egg + 1 tablespoon water
- sanding sugar

Step One: Prepare the dough by beating the butter, sugar and cream cheese just till soft and combined. Stir in the orange juice and egg. In a separate bowl, combine the flour and baking powder. Stir the flour mixture into the cream cheese mixture and combine, creating a soft slightly sticky dough. Divide the dough into 2 pieces, flatten each into a disc and wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate at least 4 hours or overnight.

Step Two: Take one package of dough out of the fridge and let it rest for 10 minutes. Keep the remaining dough chilled. Flour a work surface, and roll the dough out into a 12" circle. With a spatula, spread half the preserves over the entire circle, and then sprinkle with half the sugar, raisins and nuts. Use the spatula to gently press the filling into the dough. Using a pizza wheel, cut the dough into fourths, then cut each fourth into fourths. You should have 16 pieces. Some might be larger than others, no worries; it will give your cookies personality. Roll the wedges up starting at the widest end. When rolled, you should have a nice crescent shape.

Chill the rugelach while you preheat the oven to 350°F.

Remove the rugelach from the fridge and brush lightly with the egg wash. You can sprinkle with sanding sugar for a nice shine and sweet crunch, or sprinkle additional cinnamon-sugar on top. Bake for 25 minutes or until they are light brown. Repeat with the remaining dough.

Yields 32 cookies.

Judith Ginsburg's Brisket

Every family has a method for preparing brisket. There's the ubiquitous onion soup mix or splash of Coca-Cola. Judith's version has no gimmicks, just lots of fresh garlic and vegetables .... The sauce is created afterward and the brisket can be eaten right away or sleep in the sweet and sour gravy to be devoured the next day.

- 1 5–6 pound brisket
- kosher salt and pepper
- 2 tablespoons paprika
- 2 tablespoons garlic powder
- 1 pound carrots, peeled and cut into chunks
- 6 medium onions, cut into large chunks
- 8–10 cloves garlic, coarsely chopped

For the sauce:

- 1 14.5-ounce can condensed tomato soup
- 1 cup ketchup
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon white vinegar

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Rub the brisket generously with salt, pepper, paprika and garlic powder. Place it in a covered roasting pan with the carrots, onions, garlic and 1/2 cup water. Cover and roast until fork tender, about 4 hours, checking on the brisket every hour to see if additional water is needed to prevent the meat from scorching.

When the meat is done, remove it from the roasting pan and thinly slice it against the grain. To make the sauce, stir into the pan 1/2 cup water, the can of soup, ketchup, brown sugar and vinegar. Place the brisket slices back into the sauce. You can heat the sliced beef and sauce and serve at once, or let the brisket soak up the big flavors over night in the fridge. It will be worth the wait.

Yields 8 servings.

Calendar

April 2013

Monday 1

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Passover Services: BIC. Shaharit Services at 9:30 a.m. Mincha Services at 7:30 p.m.

Trop Class: TBE. Cantor Rose leads class members through the trop (cantillation) for the weekly Torah portion, discussing the implications of the trop on the text. For more information, email Cantor Rose at cantorannie@templebethemeth.org. Noon–1 p.m.

Women's Torah Study with Cantor Rose: TBE. For information, contact Cantor Annie Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com. 7–8 p.m.

Tuesday 2

Passover Services: BIC. Shaharit Services with Yizkor at 9:30 a.m. Mincha Services at 7:30 p.m.

Greatest Mysteries of Life: Chabad. Ancient tales reveal answers to the greatest mysteries of life. Explore the mystical dimension of the Talmud called the *Aggadah.* Uncover profound wisdom from some of the zaniest and most epic legends from texts not usually available to non-scholars. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session,11 a.m.; Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3, Noon. Mahjong, sewing and quilting. 1 p.m.

Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Weekly Musical Meditations: TBE. Cantor Annie and John Goodell, St. Clare's Music Director. 3–4 p.m.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. Evening book club session focusing on *Messages from the Master: Tapping into the Power of Love,* by Brien Weiss. For information, contact Cantor Annie Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com. 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 3

Hebrew 103: TBE. 6:30–7:30 p.m.

"Teaching the Holocaust Through Art:" EMU Jewish Studies. At the age of eight, Dr. Miriam Brysk lived with the partisans in the forests of Belarus. Her father was a surgeon for the resistance. Her art serves as a witness both to the catastrophe of the Holocaust and to the courageous men and women who opposed tyranny. Eastern Michigan University Student Center. 7 p.m.

Thursday 4

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey. Bring news items of interest for group discussion. 11 a.m. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3. Noon. Special events and presentations at 1 p.m.

Spirituality Book Club: TBE. Lunchtime book club session focusing on *Messages from the Master: Tapping into the Power of Love,* by Brien Weiss. For information, contact Cantor Annie Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com. Noon–1 p.m.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Birthday celebration for all with April birthdays. Bring family and friends for lunch and birthday cake at 12:30 p.m. Screening of documentary *Food Inc.*, a film about food production in America at 1 p.m.

Tradition and Change: BIC. How the Conservative movement's rabbis interpret Jewish law. 8 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 5

Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE. Informal Discussion. Attendees are welcome to bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. **Tot Shabbat for ages 5 and under at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at** 6 p.m. Shira at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Shabbat Family Service – Yom HaShoah Service with Kol Halev at 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 6

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50–9:30 a.m.

Learner's Service: AARC. Monthly session led by rabbinic intern Aura Ahuvia with interactive discussions on Jewish historical, geographical and political traditions. This month's session will explore Psalms. Visit aarecon.org or phone 445-1910 for more information. At the JCC. 10 a.m.–noon.

Benefit Concert: TBE Brotherhood. 7–9 p.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 7

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class: TBE. For information, contact Cantor Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com. 7:45–8:45 p.m.

Monday 8

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Trop Class: TBE. Cantor Rose leads class members through the trop (cantillation) for the weekly Torah portion, discussing the implications of the trop on the text. For more information, email Cantor Rose at cantorannie@templebethemeth.org. Noon–1 p.m.

Keshet Ann Arbor Hebrew: BIC. 6 p.m.

Tuesday 9

Greatest Mysteries of Life: Chabad. Ancient tales reveal answers to the greatest mysteries of life. Explore the mystical dimension of the Talmud called the *Aggadah.* Uncover profound wisdom from some of the zaniest and most epic legends from texts not usually available to non-scholars. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, 11 a.m.; Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3, Noon. Mahjong, sewing and quilting. 1 p.m.

Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Weekly Musical Meditations: TBE. Led by Cantor Annie Rose and John Goodell, St. Clare's Music Director. 3–4 p.m.

Hebrew 104: TBE. 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.

Hebrew 101: TBE. 7:15 – 8:15 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 10

Lunch and Laugh: BIC. Noon.

Hebrew 103: TBE. 6:30–7:30 p.m.

"Making Sense of the 2012 Jewish Vote:" EMU Jewish Studies. Jim Gerstein is one of the most influential pollsters in the world and a leading authority on Jewish voting patterns in the U.S. He has been a key figure in presidential elections both in the U.S. and in Israel. Eastern Michigan University Student Center. 7:30 p.m.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. Twice monthly evening of learning. Refreshments served. For information, contact Roger Stutesman by phone at 352-1170 or at rogerstutesman8707@comcast.net. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 11

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey. Bring news items of interest for group discussion. 11 a.m. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3. Noon. Special events and presentations at 1 p.m.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. A registered nurse from Care Response will provide free blood pressure checks at 12:30 p.m. Followed by a presentation on Avalon Housing by Kim Wilcox and Michael Appel 1 p.m.

"Serving Whom: An Exploration of How Jewish Organizations Navigate Whiteness, Privilege and Service:" UM Jewish Communal Leadership Program. An evening of Communal Conversation with dialogue and discussion examining how the Jewish community's evolving position and status affects its relationship to other minority and recent immigrant groups. Panelists include Deborah Dash Moore, Director of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies; Jennifer Glaser, Frankel Institute Fellow; Marilyn Sneiderman, Executive Director, Avodah: The Jewish Service Corps; Perry Ohren, CEO, Jewish Family Services of Metropolitan Detroit; Allan Gale, Associate Director, JCRC of Metropolitan Detroit; and Mira Sussman, Resettlement Services Coordinator, Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County. UM Rackham Building East Conference Room, 915 East Washington Street. For information, contact Karla Goldman at 763-6583 or email kargold@umich.edu. 5:30–8:30 p.m.

"Jewish Women and Philanthropy:" EMU Jewish Studies. Presented by Dr. Andrea Kaston Tange, director of the online research repository *Nineteenth Century Jewish Life*. At the JCC. 7 p.m.

Tradition and Change: BIC. How the Conservative movement's rabbis interpret Jewish law. 8 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 12

Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE. Informal Discussion. Bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat for ages 5 and under at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6 p.m. Shira and Sukkat Shalom for ages 5 through 10 at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Reform Israel Shabbat and Yom HaAtzmaout at 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 13

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50–9:30 a.m.

Bat Mitzvah Service: TBE. 10 a.m.

Shabbat Services: BIC. Kehillat Shabbat for 3rd–6th Grade at 11 a.m. Mini Minyan for K–2nd Grade at 11:15 a.m. Tot Shabbat at 11:15 a.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 14

Sixth Grade Bar/Bat Mitzvah Family Series: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Yom Hazikaron Ceremony: BIC. Community-wide event marking the loss of 25,000 soldiers and victims of terror. 7–7:30 p.m.

Spring Welcome Hike: Jewish Hikers of Michigan. Co-sponsored by TBE. Hike in Lilley Park in Pittsfield Township. Meet at the main entrance to the park, about ½ mile south of Ellsworth and Platt and on the left. The hikes are designed to cultivate the love of nature, spirituality, social interaction and physical activities. Bring backpacks, munchies and water. No pets, please. Activity will last approximately 1.5–2 hours and will not be physically demanding. For more information, contact Eli Avny at 883-9522, Rabbi Lisa Delson at 665-4744 or email at jewish.hikers@gmail.com.

Monday 15

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Trop Class: TBE. Cantor Rose leads class members through the trop (cantillation) for the weekly Torah portion, discussing the implications of the trop on the text. For more information, email Cantor Rose at cantorannie@templebethemeth.org. Noon–1 p.m.

Keshet Ann Arbor Hebrew: BIC. 6 p.m.

Women's Torah Study with Cantor Rose: TBE. For information, contact Cantor Annie Rose at cantorannie@gmail.com. 7–8 p.m.

"The Skin You Live In:" Jewish Women's Circle. Talk presented by Dr. Dana Sachs of the University of Michigan Department of Dermatology. $10 donation. To RSVP and to receive location information, email goblue1800@gmail.com. 7:15–9 p.m.

Tuesday 16

Greatest Mysteries of Life: Chabad. Ancient tales reveal answers to the greatest mysteries of life. Explore the mystical dimension of the Talmud called the *Aggadah.* Uncover profound wisdom from some of the zaniest and most epic legends from texts not usually available to non-scholars. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, 11 a.m.; Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3, Noon. Mahjong, sewing and quilting. 1 p.m.

CHAVERIM B' SHIRIM
CELEBRATES
A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS
From WWII to "Guys and Dolls"
and "Most Happy Fella"

Sunday, April 14, 3:00pm
At the JCC
2935 Birch Hollow Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Refreshments Served,
Donations Welcome

SEASON FINALE

ANN ARBOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
A²SO
MUSIC IN THE KEY OF A²

MAHLER

Symphony No. 6

Arie Lipsky, Conductor

April 27
8:00 p.m.
Michigan Theater

Your seat is waiting...
(734) 994-4801
www.a2so.com

SPONSORED BY:

The Ray & Eleanor Cross Foundation

ART WORKS. arts.gov

michigan council for arts & cultural affairs

IT'S COMING.

cinetopia
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

JUNE 6-9, 2013

Featuring the best films from the best festivals in the world, including Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Toronto and Berlin.

TICKETS ON SALE APRIL 29
Michigan Theater member presale starts **APRIL 22**

Stay tuned to cinetopiafestival.org for details.

MICHIGAN THEATER
ANN ARBOR'S DOWNTOWN CENTER FOR FINE FILM & PERFORMING ARTS
603 E. LIBERTY • 734-668-TIME • MICHTHEATER.ORG

University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance

A dark comedy by Tracy Letts

Directed by John Neville-Andrews

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

April 4 & 11 @ 7:30 PM • April 5, 6, 12, & 13 @ 8 PM • April 7 & 14 @ 2 PM
Department of Theatre & Drama • Arthur Miller Theatre
This play contains strong language • General Admission $26 • Students $10 with ID
League Ticket Office • 734-764-2538 • tickets.music.umich.edu

Calendar

Weekly Musical Meditations: TBE. Led by Cantor Annie Rose and John Goodell, St. Clare's Music Director. 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Hebrew 104: TBE. 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.

Hebrew 101: TBE. 7:15 – 8:15 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 17

Simon Wiesenthal: The Search for Justice: JCC and JCS. Second talk in Jewish Heroes and Heroines Series, presented by Larry Kuperman about Simon Weisenthal, Holocaust survivor, humanitarian and Nazi hunter. At the JCC. 10 a.m.

Lunch and Laugh: BIC. Noon.

Art of the Holocaust: JCC. Presented by Miriam Brysk, a Holocaust survivor from Poland, whose return in 2002 to the former locations of the ghettos and camps of Eastern Europe in a group led by Zvi Gittelman renewed her interest in the Holocaust. Haunted by images of her vanished family, she felt a deep need to portray their suffering and return to them their dignity as Jews. RSVP to Karen Freedland at karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 3 p.m.

Celebrate Israel 65th Birthday Concert: Jewish Federation. Noa: The Israeli Songbook, featuring Gil Dor, Gadi Seri and the Yoed Nir String Quartet. The Opening Act is Kol Hakavod. Michigan Theater. Tickets at www.jewishannarbor.org/celebrateisrael. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 18

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey. Bring news items of interest for group discussion. 11 a.m. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3. Noon. Special events and presentations at 1 p.m.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Homemade dairy lunch at noon, followed at 1 p.m. with an interactive presentation led by Charles Newman on making photographic keepsakes. Attendees are asked to bring a photograph of something they intend to bequeath or a picture of someone significant in their life. 1 p.m.

Tradition and Change: BIC. How the Conservative movement's rabbis interpret Jewish law. 8 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 19

Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE. Informal Discussion. Attendees are welcome to bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat for ages 5 and under at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6 p.m. Shira and Sukkat Shalom for ages 5 through 10 at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Shabbat Service at 7:30 p.m.

Friday Night Lights: BIC. Service at 6 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 20

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50 a.m.

Sixth Grade Morning Program: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Bat Mitzvah Service: TBE. 10 a.m.

Morning Services: AARC. Interactive community services featuring music, singing, modern English readings, alongside the traditional prayers and thought-provoking Torah Discussion led by rabinnic intern Aura Ahuvia. To get involved, email aura613@gmail.com or visit www.aarecon.org for more information. Held at the JCC. 1- a.m.–Noon.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 21

Gan Katan: BIC. 10 a.m.

Monday 22

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Trop Class: TBE. Cantor Rose leads class members through the trop (cantillation) for the weekly Torah portion, discussing the implications of the trop on the text. For more information, email Cantor Rose at cantorannie@templebethemeth.org. Noon–1 p.m.

Keshet Ann Arbor Hebrew: BIC. 6 p.m.

Tuesday 23

Greatest Mysteries of Life: Chabad. Ancient tales reveal answers to the greatest mysteries of life. Explore the mystical dimension of the Talmud called the *Aggadah.* Uncover profound wisdom from some of the zaniest and most epic legends from texts not usually available to non-scholars. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, 11 a.m.; Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3, Noon. Mahjong, sewing and quilting. 1 p.m.

Weekly Musical Meditations: TBE. Cantor Annie Rose and John Goodell, St. Clare's Music Director. 3–4 p.m.

Hebrew 104: TBE. 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Hebrew 101: TBE. 7:15–8:15 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 24

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Noon

Music Performance: JCC. The Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra will perform their *B* concert at their Beethoven and Brahms concert at the JCC. Featuring Yehonatan Berick on violin, Arie Lipsky on cello and Pauline Martin on

NEW in your NEIGHBORHOOD

COLE TAYLOR MORTGAGE

As a division of Cole Taylor Bank, Cole Taylor Mortgage offers you a strong banking foundation.

We combine that foundation with flexibility to provide you with the right mortgage loan product for your individual situation.

Contact us today to learn about the many loan products available to help you.

Call (734) 213-1515
Visit the web coletaylormortgage.com
Just stop by 1328 South Main Street, Ann Arbor

ColeTaylorMortgage
A Division of Cole Taylor Bank

piano. Tickets are $10 at the door or from Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. Dessert reception at 1 p.m. Concert at 1:30 p.m. For information, email karenfreedland@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990. 1 p.m.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. Twice monthly evening of learning. Refreshments served. For information, contact Roger Stutesman at rogerstutesman8707@comcast.net. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 25

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, 10 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey. Bring news items of interest for group discussion. 11 a.m. Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3. Noon. Special events and presentations at 1 p.m.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Ann Arbor local Laurel Federbush will play a selection of music on her harp. Laurel's repertoire includes classical, Celtic and contemporary. 1 p.m.

Tradition and Change: BIC. How the Conservative movement's rabbis interpret Jewish law. 8 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 26

Shabbat Services for Young Families: TBE. Tot Shabbat for ages 5 and under at 5:30 p.m. Tot and Sukkat Shalom dinner at 6 p.m. Shira and Sukkat Shalom for ages 5 through 10 at 6:30 p.m. Popsicle Oneg follows. Birthday and Anniversary Shabbat Service and Family Service Honoring Fifth Grade at 7:30 p.m.

Rabbi Levy's Lunch and Learn: TBE. Informal Discussion. Attendees are welcome to bring lunch. Noon–1 p.m.

Fourth Friday Shabbat Service: AARC. Musical Kabbalat Shabbat services held at the JCC and open to all. Led by rabbinic intern Aura Ahuvia. Services followed by vegetarian potluck dinner. Pizza nosh for children before services from 6 p.m. Childcare provided during services from 6:15–7:30 p.m. Reservations preferred, especially for pizza and childcare. Contact Jennifer Cohen at www.aarecon.org/contact-us or phone 445-1910. 6–10 p.m.

Saturday 27

Torah Study with Rabbi: TBE. 8:50 a.m.

Shabbat Limmud: BIC. 9 a.m.

B'not Mitzvah: TBE. 10 a.m.

Genesis Work Days: TBE. 1–4 p.m.

Sunday 28

Lag B'omer Picnic: Chabad. Hot dogs, salads and drinks with lots of fun programs and prizes for children and adults. Phone 995-3276 for time and location information.

Genesis Work Days: TBE. 1–4 p.m.

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Gala: BIC. Celebrating Rabbi Dobrusin. 7 p.m.

Monday 29

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Trop Class: TBE. Cantor Rose leads class members through the trop (cantillation) for the weekly Torah portion, discussing the implications of the trop on the text. For more information, email Cantor Rose at cantorannie@templebethemeth.org. Noon–1 p.m.

Keshet Ann Arbor Hebrew: BIC. 6 p.m.

Interfaith Roundtable: TBE. 7 p.m.

Tuesday 30

Greatest Mysteries of Life: Chabad. Ancient tales reveal answers to the greatest mysteries of life. Explore the mystical dimension of the Talmud called the *Aggadah*. Uncover profound wisdom from some of the zaniest and most epic legends from texts not usually available to non-scholars. 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

SPICE: JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, 11 a.m.; Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3, Noon. Mahjong, sewing and quilting. 1 p.m.

Yiddish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Weekly Musical Meditations: TBE. Cantor Annie and John Goodell, St. Clare's Music Director. 3–4 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Torah may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, with the classical Rashi commentary. 8 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel. Call 994-9258 in advance to confirm time.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m., followed by tot dinner. Sukkat Shalom service at 6:30 p.m. for "tot grads," preceded by dinner. Shira at 6:30 p.m. Oneg for Tot and Sukkat Shalom families at 7 p.m. Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. Once a month Middle School Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation. 6:15 p.m. at the JCC the fourth Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Pizza nosh for the kids at 6 p.m. Childcare provided during the service. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 975-6527, email mamacohen@comcast.net, or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad. Begins at candle-lighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Weekly Shabbat services

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Ma'ariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvar Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals. UM Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m. Morning childcare from 10 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Congregation. Learners' Service held first or second Saturday each month at the JCC from 10 a.m.–noon. Discussion-based format with changing topics, focusing on historical, geographical, and political traditions of different parts of traditional service each month. Regular morning service generally held on the second or third Saturday each month at the JCC from 10 a.m.–noon. Traditionally-based, with music plus a lengthy Torah discussion. For info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Friday night services at Shabbat candle lighting time. Saturday morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study with Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m. Morning Minyan with Rabbi Delson and lay leaders at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. most weeks. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and Holiday. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Phone numbers and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC)
P.O. Box 7451, Ann Arbor 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

EMU Hillel
965 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti 482-0456

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 761-5324

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

UM Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting

April 5	6:43 p.m.
April 12	6:51 p.m.
April 19	6:59 p.m.
April 26	7:06 p.m.

RDK
734/428-8836
800/219-2100
"Serving You Since 1972"
R.D. Kleinschmidt, Inc.
We Build Our Reputation Around Your Home
ROOFING • SIDING • GUTTERS
• Shingles & Flat Roofs
• Siding & Trim
• Seamless Aluminum Gutters
• Replacement Windows
19860 Sharon Valley Road • Manchester
Sharon Kleinschmidt and Richard Kennedy, owners

Non-local bankers think A2SO is the droid in Star Wars.
At Bank of Ann Arbor, we know Ann Arbor inside and out. We use that knowledge to provide the products and services the people of Ann Arbor need. Bank of Ann Arbor helps.
734-662-1600 or boaa.com. How can we help you?
Bank of Ann Arbor helps
Member FDIC

Heating and Cooling Specialists
A/C • Furnaces • Humidifiers • Air Cleaners
Carrier
Turn to the Experts
MODERN MECHANICAL
Alan Friedman
Serving our community since 1985
734-662-6644
www.modernmechanical.net

Celebration 2013 – Women of Character

Mimi Weisberg, special to the WJN

"Celebration 2013—Women of Character" was the theme of this year's evening of Jewish learning for women on Sunday, March 10, at the Sheraton. One hundred twenty-one women listened to keynote speaker, Gilah Kletenik, MA, the congregational scholar at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun on Manhattan's Upper East Side speak on "Recap, Rework, Recommit: Jewish Women and Justice." Attendee could also participate in two breakout sessions with many distinguished local educators on a variety of pertinent topics about or of interest to Jewish women.

"We were very excited to bring the women of our community together around learning and philanthropy," said Federation president Laurie Barnett. "Women's philanthropy in Ann Arbor is central to the mission of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. It is dedicated to the continuity, connectivity and thriving future of our Ann Arbor community, Israel and the Jewish people. This evening of learning helped us explore topics that will help us do just that." ■

PHOTOS BY SUSAN AYER

Educator and presenter Jennifer Lewis

Ora Pescovitz and Pamela Lippitt

Stacey Lee, Kelsey Weisberg, Federation President Laurie Barnett, keynotespeaker Gilah Kletenik

121 Women learning and sharing

With the help of Knesset members, Women of the Wall get to pray

By Ben Sales

JERUSALEM (JTA)—If ever there were a gathering of Women of the Wall that was going to spark a wider conflict, the one held last month would have been the one.

For the past several months, police have detained members of the women's prayer group during their monthly Rosh Chodesh services for wearing tallit prayer shawls at the site, in contravention of Kotel rules. At a service in February marking the beginning of the Hebrew month of Adar, Jerusalem police arrested 10 women, including the sister and niece of American comedian Sarah Silverman, for disturbing public order.

For last month's service, three members of Knesset would be coming. American Jews were planning solidarity rallies. And haredi Orthodox Jews were planning to put up a fight.

"Save us!" read posters hung in Israeli haredi neighborhoods, exhorting men and women to show up at the Wall at 7 a.m. that Tuesday to oppose Women of the Wall's service. "The Western Wall will be trampled and desecrated by a group of women called 'Women of the Wall,' who wish to desecrate the Wall. Anyone who attributes importance to the place that God's spirit will never leave will come to protest and cry out!"

Women of the Wall Chairwoman Anat Hoffman lodged a formal complaint with police the preceeding Sunday alleging "incitement of violence against Women of the Wall" over the unsigned posters, known in Yiddish as *pashkevillim*.

This time, however, the women were allowed to pray largely undisturbed and without harassment by the police.

When 7 o'clock rolled around, only a few dozen haredim were there to protest the women, and the police were prepared. A few officers kept the haredi group away from the mechitzah barrier that separates men and women, and a few more police officers stood with Women of the Wall, who numbered more than 100.

Most of them—including Knesset members Stav Shaffir of the Labor Party, and Michal Rozin and Tamar Zandberg of Meretz—wore prayer shawls. But no one was detained or arrested, despite the 2003 Israeli Supreme Court ruling upholding a ban on women wearing tefillin or tallit prayer shawls at the site, or reading from a Torah scroll.

The Knesset members used their immunity to enter the area with their prayer shawls, while other women had men bring the shawls in for them.

The biggest disturbances the women had to deal with were a few rounds of haredim chanting and singing "They will devise a plan and it will be foiled"—taken from a prayer cursing enemies of the Jews. Later in the service, a woman stood in front of the group and yelled "For shame!" several times.

Other than that, the Women of the Wall prayed their service complete with self-assured singing.

"For 24 years, the Women of the Wall have been praying at a site sacred to the Jewish people and for years they have been stopped just because they seek to pray in their own way," Shaffir wrote on her Facebook page. "This morning, following hate banners in the haredi press, I joined them. At first we were prevented from entering the square on the grounds we were disturbing the order but there is nothing that 100 women armed with a shawl can't do."

The rabbi of the Western Wall, Shmuel Rabinowitz, condemned last month's prayer service. In a statement issued to the media, he said the women brought "brothers against brothers in unnecessary confrontation" and noted that the wall next to Robinson's Arch has been designated as the area for women's prayer services.

> ***There is nothing that 100 women armed with a shawl can't do.***

"The Western Wall is the only place shared by all the people of Israel—and it is not the place to decide or express a world view," Rabinowitz said. "I urge anyone for whom the Wall is dear to do whatever he can to keep disputes outside the plaza, and leave the people of Israel one place where there are no demonstrations, clashes and hatred."

A spokeswoman for Women of the Wall, Shira Pruce, told JTA that she does not expect the group's success that day to establish a precedent at the Western Wall. She surmised that the police didn't want to arrest the Knesset members or cause a stir just before President Obama's visit to Jerusalem the following week.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld confirmed to JTA that no arrests were made because of the presence of the Knesset members, whom he noted have certain immunity from arrest or bodily searches.

"We'll deal with upcoming events with sensitivity," Rosenfeld pledged.

Meanwhile, supporters in New York, Washington and Cleveland held their own rallies in support of Women of the Wall, and San Francisco supporters held a rally on March 19.

At a demonstrationthe night before in front of the Israeli Embassy in Washington, some 125 participants, including children, prayed and sang with guitars and tambourines. The women raised their arms to hold aloft prayer shawls in a show of solidarity with their Israeli counterparts.

"The words 'A woman was arrested for wearing a tallit' should not be coming out of Israel," said Rabbi Esther Lederman of Temple Micah in Washington, who took her 1-year-old son to the protest.

A letter from Anat Hoffman, chairwoman of Woman of the Wall, was read aloud to the Washington crowd.

"I want to hug each of you. I want to shake everyone's hand," Hoffman said in the letter read by Judy Gelmen, chair of Ameinu, one of the organizers of the Washington event. "We are one in conviction that there is more than one way to be a Jew in Israel and at the Wall."

Embassy spokesman Aaron Sagui, who went out to greet the protesters, promised to convey the group's message to Jerusalem. ■

Vitals

Mazel tov

Leonore Gerstein on the birth of her granddaughter, Feburary 13.
Maya Krugman and Ellie Gutmann , on their b'not mitzvah, April 6.
Leah Webber on her bat mitzvah, April 6.
Bram Lesko, on his bar mitzvah, April 13.
Brian Goldsmith on his bar mitzvah, April 13.
Arianna Seir on her bat mitzvah, April 20.
Eliza Plesco, on her bat mitzvah, April 20.
Emma Block and Emily Ohl, on their b'not mitzvah, April 27.
Avichai Cohen on his bar mitzvah April 27.
Alexandra Halberstam on her bat mitzvah, April 27.

Condolences

Sheldon Markel on the death of his mother, Sylvia Markel, and his sister, Audrey Elkiss, February 8.
Amy Rosenberg on the death of her mother, Edith Rosenberg, February 10.
Harriet Selin on the death of her brother, Edward Chudacoff, February 11.
Sari Shifrin on the death of her mother, Marcella Wolgel, March 11.
Lily Ladin on the death of her sister, Hella Kace, February 19.
Barry Nemon on the death of his mother, Sarah Nemon, February 20.
Robert Faber on the death of his wife, Eunice Faber, March 21.

Advertisers

Afternoon Delight 12
Amadeus Cafe/Patisserie 2
Ann Arbor State Bank 22
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra 27
The Ark 3, 31
Aunt Agatha's 12
Bank of Ann Arbor 29
Camp Gan Israel 12
Camp Tavor 31
Cantor Samuel Greenbaum; mohel . 21
Center for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery 21
Chelsea Flower Shop 22
Cole Taylor Mortgage 28
Dennis Platte Graphic Design 12
Gold Bond Cleaners 3
Carol Hoffer, CLU, CASL 2
Holocaust Memorial Center 21
Jewish Community Center 27
Jewish Family Services 6
Jewish Federation 32
Joe Cornell Entertainment 31
Kenville Studios 21
Lewis Greenspoon Architects 2
Mast Shoes 5
Mercy's Restaurant 3
Michal Porath, Realtor 21
Michigan Theater 27
Modern Mechanical 29
MOSA Audiology 21
Paper Station 2
People's Food Co-op 22
R.D. Kleinschmidt 29
Shutter Booth 3
Susan Ayer Photography 12
Tobi Hollander 22
United Bank & Trust 16, 17
University Musical Society 11
University Productions 27
Village Apothecary 3
Zingerman's 31
Jewish Federation 32

HABONIM DROR
CAMP TAVOR
Did you know that Camp Tavor offers week-long Jewish Summer Camp Programs?
Teen Leadership Session
June 23–30, 2013
Grades : 10 and 11
The Teen Leadership Program will bring together motivated teen leaders from all over the Midwest. Camp Tavor's amazing staff and other community professionals will teach these budding leaders how to harness the power they possess to make a difference in their world.
Taste of Tavor
June 16–21 or Aug. 1–5
Grades 3–5
This is an opportunity for first-time campers to have a wonderful short-term Jewish camp experience.
Jewish Farm Camp
July 1–7, 2013
Grades 6–8
Campers will be a part of Camp Tavor's one-of-a kind Jewish youth community while leaning about farming, sustainability, and environmental responsibility. In addition, to their environmental knowledge campers will grow their own Jewish identities. Campers will learn at Camp Tavor's on-site organic farm and participate in field trips so they can gain a greater understanding of farming.
We also offer, 2-, 3-, 4-, and 7-week camp sessions for information about any of our amazing summer camp programs visit www.camptavor.org.

Zingerman's Roadhouse
8th Annual Jewish Dinner:
JEWISH IRAQI CUISINE
Tuesday, April 16 • 7-10pm
This special dinner features recipes that have been passed down through generations to help preserve the rich culinary traditions of Iraq's Jewish population after they were forced to leave their homeland, seeking refuge in Israel in the mid 1900s.
The menu for this full-flavored event includes authentic, classic Jewish-Iraqi favories such as kubbeh, a popular meat dumpling often served in a sour, tangy soup called hamousta.
$45/dinner
Roadhouse Special Dinners are multi-course family-style affairs with a little history and a LOT of food featuring writers, chefs, authors and more from our own community and all around the country.
For reservations to all events, stop by 2501 Jackson Ave., call 734.663.3663 (FOOD) or online www.zingermansroadhouse.com

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor Presents

CELEBRATE ISRAEL

65th Birthday Concert

Noa

The Israeli Song Book

Featuring Gil Dor, Gadi Seri & the Yoed Nir String Quartet

Opening Act: U-M Hillel a capella group Kol Ha'Kavod

Wednesday, April 17, 2013 • 7:30pm

6:30pm Festivities Commence • 7:00pm Concert Doors Open

Michigan Theater • 603 East Liberty • Ann Arbor, MI

Reserved Section: $65

General Admission Adult: $36, Child/Student: $12

To purchase tickets or become a sponsor visit

www.jewishannarbor.org/celebrateisrael

or call 734-677-0100.

65 Celebrate Israel

Yom Hazikaron Tekes (Israel Remembrance Day Ceremony)
Sunday, April 14, 7:00pm • Beth Israel Congregation

Walk For Israel
Sunday, May 19, 1:00pm • Burns Park